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Drug demand reduction: world situation with regard to drug abuse, in particular the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) through drug injection

Prevention of the recreational and leisure use of drugs among young people

Report of the Executive Director

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* E/CN.7/2002/1.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 44/5, entitled "Prevention of recreational and leisure use of drugs among young people". In that resolution, the Commission expressed concern "about the new trends in drug use among young people who abuse illicit, and misuse licit, psychoactive substances for recreational purposes and during their leisure time". In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged States, inter alia, to develop information systems and prevention programmes aimed at raising public awareness of the risks associated with the new trends in illicit drug use among young people, in particular in recreational areas; to promote the participation of young people in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of prevention strategies and activities targeting illicit drug use among young people; to develop appropriate means of communicating and distributing information aimed at young people and designed to promote healthy ways of life conducive to the enjoyment of free time without the use of drugs; and to adapt their research on drug addiction and their treatment networks and health, education and social services, taking into account the new patterns of illicit drug use.

2. In its resolution 44/5, the Commission requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to provide to States, upon request, guidance and assistance in developing strategies and programmes for reducing illicit drug demand, especially among young people in recreational areas, and encouraged it to gather detailed, evaluated information on successful experiences in prevention programmes in countries throughout the world and to disseminate that information to States and practitioners. Finally, in the same resolution, the Executive Director of UNDCP was requested to submit to the Commission at its forty-fifth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

3. The structure of the present report is as follows: an overview of the abuse of drugs for recreational purposes is provided in section II; what is known about the activities undertaken by Member States to prevent the recreational use of drugs is briefly reviewed in section III; UNDCP activities in response to the problem are covered in section IV; and conclusions are presented in section V.

4. UNDCP has previously dealt with the issue of drug abuse among children and young people in the following two reports: "World situation with regard to drug abuse, in particular among children and youth" (E/CN.7/2001/4); and "Youth and drugs: a global overview" (E/CN.7/1999/8). Those reports included references to the illicit use of drugs for recreational purposes and during leisure time. Since they also provided the background of broader patterns of and trends in drug abuse among youth, which are important for understanding the issue of recreational use of drugs, those reports, as well as the 2002 report on the world situation with regard to drug abuse, in particular the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) through drug injection (E/CN.7/2002/2), are brought to the attention of the Commission as additional sources of contextual information.

II. The abuse of drugs in the context of recreational and leisure activities

5. The term "recreational use of drugs" is an imprecise term used to describe a pattern of drug use that usually takes place in the context of leisure activities, such as parties or dance events, and that is alleged to be non-dependent or non-compulsive. An example of such behaviour, which has recently attracted considerable attention, is the use of so-called dance drugs, in particular methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA), or Ecstasy, and related analogues. Even though no good evidence of physical dependence on MDMA is available, there is mounting evidence of neurotoxic effects and long-term harm, with users showing patterns of behaviour that appears compulsive and may include taking multiple doses over a short period of time.

6. Research indicates that recreational use of drugs is found primarily among young people who may also be using substances such as cannabis, cocaine, other amphetamine-type stimulants or lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), but also other substances such as gamma-hydroxybutyric acid, ketamine and alcohol. It is therefore more relevant to talk about polydrug use

(mixing or alternating a large range of substances) within recreational settings, than to concentrate on any one particular drug.

7. The stimulant properties of some of the drugs chosen for recreational use are exploited to allow the users to remain active for longer periods than would otherwise be possible. Nightclubs, discotheques and other social gathering places for youth have been at the centre of the widespread distribution and use of psychoactive substances. In that context, the drugs play a role as a social lubricant. At the same time, the recreational use of drugs is taking place in a cultural and social environment that has become more tolerant towards drugs, and in which young people are exposed to messages that give the impression that recreational use of drugs is safe, acceptable or glamorous, and may even be beneficial in the pursuit of material success and the satisfaction of personal needs.

8. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), in its 2001 "Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union", notes that the combined use of various substances, licit and illicit, is common among young people with an outgoing lifestyle. EMCDDA also reports a tendency to use different drugs in response to different needs and circumstances, and underlines the phenomenon of quickly changing patterns of experimentation or combinations of different substances to get "high" or balance the effects of the various substances used.

9. While the use of Ecstasy at parties and dance events is predominantly a phenomenon of western Europe, North America and Australia, prevalence data suggest that the patterns of use of amphetamine-type stimulants are diverse and are spreading to other parts of the world. In general terms, the abuse of synthetic drugs has stabilized in the States members of the European Union. However, upward trends are still observed in some cities or holiday resorts that are more likely to attract young tourists owing to their large offering of youth-oriented events. According to data collected by the European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs, lifetime experience with illicit drug use among 15- to 16-year olds doubled in almost all central and eastern European countries between 1995 and 1999. The increase reflects mostly cannabis, and, to a lesser extent, amphetamine-type stimulants, including MDMA, and LSD. In the United States of America, where the abuse of MDMA started later than in Europe, sharp increases have been reported in recent years among students. Young people in the United States now use Ecstasy more than cocaine. Ecstasy is being used in a variety of settings, and some evidence exists to suggest that the age groups involved appear to be getting younger. In addition, there are indications that methamphetamine is being used along with other drugs at dance venues.

10. Abuse of Ecstasy has been registered in some developing countries in the context of discotheques and dance clubs, but it has so far not reached high prevalence rates. In south-east Asia and in some parts of Africa, amphetamine-type stimulants are abused more for instrumental use by people such as truck drivers, agricultural workers, sex workers and also students (mainly to keep awake when preparing for examinations).

11. Recreational use of drugs has changed the traditional image of drug abuse as a part of the life of people living on the margin or underground, or excluded from society. The abuse of drugs is increasingly also taking place among mainstream youth during their free time, usually at weekends. That is particularly true for cannabis. There is a growing concern that cannabis and, to a lesser extent, amphetamine-type stimulants have become a part of the subculture of some young people. While it would be wrong to carry such concerns too far, the trend signals a risk that the dangers of drug abuse are being increasingly ignored, and that drug abuse is coming to be seen as a normal activity. That may be a problem, in particular, for drugs such as Ecstasy.

12. There are reports of acute health consequences even among first-time abusers of Ecstasy; and even though negative consequences may not be visible in the short term, there is mounting evidence that Ecstasy has neurotoxic effects and that its abuse may have an impact on the functioning of various body organs, including the liver and the heart. With the support of UNDCP, the World Health Organization (WHO) has carried out a global review of Ecstasy, MDMA and other ring-substituted amphetamines, indicating short-term physical effects such as increased jaw tension and grinding of teeth, loss of appetite, dry mouth, tachycardia, hot and cold flushes and sweaty palms, as well as long-term effects, including insomnia, depression, headaches and muscle stiffness. In

addition, the review indicates that, even though long-term effects of MDMA in humans are as yet unknown, animal studies and some studies on humans have suggested an alarming potential for long-term harm. From those studies it appears that brain damage is largely irreversible, and is not necessarily dependent on an extensive history of MDMA use.

III. Action undertaken by Member States to prevent the recreational use of drugs

13. Given the short time since the adoption of Commission resolution 44/5, the present report on the action taken by Member States to prevent the use of illicit drugs for recreational purposes is based mainly on the information provided through the biennial reports questionnaire (109 replies in total), supplemented by information available from EMCDDA and a smaller number of publicly available studies

14. An analysis of the replies to the biennial reports questionnaire regarding the implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/4 A) show that more than a half of the responding Governments reported that they had adopted measures to raise awareness of the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants, which, as noted above, is a key part of the problem of recreational use. Several Governments have launched national prevention campaigns and comprehensive strategies to reduce the demand for illicit drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants. In some countries, increased efforts were being made to inform youth, parents and mentors of the harmful effects of such substances.

15. In several countries in Europe and south-east Asia, controls at entertainment sites and discotheques have been strengthened. Ireland provides examples of such measures, where health-service personnel and the police have informed the staff of nightclubs of the dangers of amphetamine-type stimulants. In Italy, an agreement on special measures to be taken in discotheques has been signed between the Government and the national association of discotheque owners. In the Netherlands, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports has advised local authorities on regulations for large-scale events. Organizers are required to provide free drinking water, experienced first aid staff, adequate ventilation and chill-out rooms.

16. As noted in previous reports on drug abuse among youth, young people at school age are increasingly experimenting with drugs, even though the extent to which that happens varies. It is therefore critical that prevention activities target school populations. There is some evidence that that is being done. Data from the biennial reports questionnaire suggest that prevention work most commonly occurs in schools and involves providing information. Sixty-eight per cent of the responding States reported relatively extensive school-based drug education programmes. Just over a half of the responding States also reported extensive community-based education programmes and slightly less than a half noted extensive prevention programmes in health centres. Life-skills development programmes were mostly provided in school settings.

17. Even though abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants is increasingly concentrated among youth and threatening to become a part of specific youth subcultures, only 39 per cent of the reporting Governments indicated that they had adopted specific programmes to prevent youth from experimenting with such substances. Several of those Governments reported that school-based prevention programmes to inform youth of the harmful effects of illicit drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants, had been widely implemented. The mass media, television commercials and printed materials were used to inform young people of the adverse effects of drug abuse. Seminars, sports events and cultural activities were also generally used to deter teenagers from experimenting with amphetamine-type stimulants.

18. In several of the States members of the European Union, the majority of projects identified by EMCDDA as specific to abuse of synthetic drugs is based on a harm-reduction approach. Those projects may entail on-site support, advice information and counselling at large rave events, and are usually part of a wider harm-reduction approach that has been endorsed at the local level. Leaflets, flyers, posters, booklets and materials on safer drug use are distributed in clubs, venues, record shops and other relevant outlets. They are

targeted at individuals who may already have taken drugs as well as at potential users. In some of the States members of the European Union, including Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, on-site pill testing is offered to drug using young participants at dance events.

19. The biennial reports questionnaire does not contain questions as to whether or not young people are involved in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of prevention strategies targeting illicit drug use among young people. It is therefore not possible to provide information on that particular aspect of the recommendations contained in Commission resolution 44/5. Nor is it possible to glean information about the degree to which States have adapted their research on drug addiction and their treatment networks and health, education and social services, taking into account the new patterns of illicit drug use among young people. It is, however, widely recognized, and discussed among professionals, that treatment services designed to meet the needs of opiate abusers perform poorly in terms of attracting young people who misuse amphetamine-type stimulants.

IV. UNDCP activities

20. In its resolution 44/5, the Commission requested UNDCP to provide to States, upon request, guidance and assistance in developing strategies and programmes for reducing illicit drug demand, especially among young people in recreational areas. The widespread abuse of drugs and its association with leisure and recreation settings require the identification of innovative approaches and an adjustment of prevention strategies. It also requires the involvement and participation of young people in the process of reviewing and rethinking the strategies. While it is not possible to identify one single effective approach to the prevention of drug abuse among youth, there are some elements to consider when developing such strategies. They include the development of life skills, the enhancement of protective factors, the provision of factual information and of alternative activities, peer education etc. Those topics have been further developed in the report of the Executive Director entitled "World situation with regard to drug abuse, in particular among children and youth" (E/CN.7/2001/4).

21. To prevent drug abuse among youth, UNDCP has provided assistance to various Member States on the basis of the above-mentioned programming elements. The assistance has usually been offered in the context of the development of broader national drug abuse prevention programmes, and it has varied in accordance with local needs. There are, however, some common elements. The majority of the programmes targeting young people are school-based, for the simple reason that in the majority of the countries the school system provides the widest coverage in terms of reaching young people. However, UNDCP has also promoted the development of out-of-school activities, the involvement of parents and, above all, the adoption of peer-to-peer approaches.

22. One of the key tools for assessing exposure to drug abuse among youth populations is school surveys using standardized methods. Notable work in that area include the European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs, the "Monitoring the future" study in the United States and the work of the Organization of American States, which has adopted school surveys as a key demand indicator. UNDCP is currently supporting school surveys in a number of States, including extensive exercises in the Caribbean in partnership with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre. As part of the UNDCP Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse, a tool-kit module on school survey methods is being produced and will be available in 2002.

23. In its resolution 44/5, the Commission also requested UNDCP to gather detailed, evaluated information on successful experiences in prevention programmes in countries throughout the world and to disseminate that information to States and practitioners. The Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse, initiated by UNDCP and launched at the Drug Abuse Prevention Forum organized by Youth Vision Jeunesse in Banff, Canada, in 1998, has grown to include over 70 groups from more than 40 countries. The groups are linked through a LISTSERV on a daily basis and through a newsletter published quarterly.

24. The Network has been expanded through the training of youth groups regionally in needs assessment and programme planning and by financially supporting a few of the trained groups through small grants. The Network has also organized a series of meetings to

share experiences that will serve as the basis for developing best practices and publications on different aspects of working in prevention with young people. The first such publication, entitled *Equal Partners: Organizing for Youth by Youth Events*, was released in 2001 to guide those who wish to organize meetings and conferences targeting young people with the effective involvement of young people. Three additional publications are being prepared, covering the following topics: the use of peer-to-peer techniques for drug demand reduction; how to handle HIV/AIDS and young injecting drug abusers; and using sport for the prevention of drug abuse.

25. The Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse is another activity that combines work on best practices with capacity-building, specifically in mobilizing local communities for the prevention of substance abuse among children and young people. About 120 local partner organizations, mainly non-governmental, in Belarus, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia, have been trained in conducting local situation assessments and in developing community-based prevention activities based on the assessments. It is estimated that more than 150,000 young people and adults, including parents, teachers and youth workers, will benefit directly from the community-based activities that the local partner organizations have developed with the support of UNDCP and WHO within the framework of the Global Initiative.

26. UNDCP is currently undertaking a review of evidence-based best practices and promising approaches in prevention throughout the world. The results of the review will be made available during the first half of 2002 in the form of a publication on best practices including case studies from all regions of the world, and will cover various aspects of prevention, such as how to develop appropriate means of communicating and distributing information aimed at young people and designed to promote healthy ways of life conducive to the enjoyment of free time without the use of drugs. The lessons learned from the Global Youth Network and the Global Initiative will be incorporated into the review.

27. UNDCP has also supported a WHO project on strengthening the strategic responses to the health and social consequences of the use of amphetamine-type stimulants (with special reference to MDMA/Ecstasy). The project aims at improving understanding of the nature, extent and context of the use of amphetamine-type stimulants, and of the health and social consequences related to such use in different cultural settings. One of the priority research areas is the use of Ecstasy by young people.

V. Conclusions

28. The recent trends in drug abuse among young people indicate that, at least in developed countries and increasingly elsewhere, the abuse of illicit drugs has become more popular among mainstream youth. There is also a risk that drug abuse in recreational settings is increasingly becoming part of the lifestyle of certain youth groups. While recreational use of drugs is typically associated with Ecstasy and the dance world, the epidemiological evidence indicates that those who are using Ecstasy are in most cases polydrug abusers who are consuming a wide variety of both legal and illegal substances, cannabis being the most common illegal drug. Also, the abuse of drugs for recreational purposes is not taking place only in discotheques or at dance parties. The phenomenon of recreational drug use is also characterized by quickly changing patterns of use and experimentation.

29. It is important to be able quickly to identify changing patterns of drug use among various youth subcultures. That calls for the establishment of early warning systems, able to capture such changes in a rapid way. Such systems would need to include qualitative information.

30. While there is a relatively benign picture of the use of amphetamine-type stimulants in recreational settings among certain youth groups, serious health consequences have been reported even among first-time abusers of Ecstasy. There is also mounting evidence that Ecstasy has neurotoxic effects and that its abuse has an impact on the functioning of various body organs, including the liver and the heart.

31. It is important to conduct further research into the health and social consequences of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in order to determine the long-term negative effects of their abuse and to refute the notion that the recreational use of Ecstasy and other amphetamine-type stimulants is harmless.

32. Even though the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants is increasingly concentrated among youth and threatens to become a part of specific youth subcultures, only a small proportion of the Governments replying to the biennial reports questionnaire indicated that they had adopted specific programmes to prevent youth from experimenting with amphetamine-type stimulants.

33. The new patterns of drug abuse require enhanced efforts in prevention and the development of new approaches to it. The social context of the dance world, fashion, trendsetters and peer group norms play a significant role in the recreational use of drugs. Prevention efforts should aim at influencing those factors. It is also important to involve young people in the development of programmes to prevent recreational use of drugs.

34. Another issue that needs to be addressed is the development of appropriate treatment services for abusers of amphetamine-type stimulants, and more generally the development of accessible and open counselling services able to attract recreational users.

35. Finally, the available information suggests that the recreational use of drugs is largely concentrated in western Europe, North America and Australia. However, pockets of such use can also be found in other regions. Given the globalization of youth cultures, it would be advisable to address the emerging problem at an early stage by developing new approaches to the prevention of drug abuse in recreational environments, and by sharing experiences between countries that have a history of dealing with the problem and those that are new to it.

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Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard to drug trafficking and reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

World situation with regard to illicit drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the global trends and patterns in illicit drug production and trafficking and of the action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2001.

The global supply of heroin declined considerably during 2001, mainly because of the substantive reduction of opium production in Afghanistan during that year. Trafficking trends, which were assessed up to 2000 in this report, reflect a huge increase in heroin seizures at the global level, assumed to be the result of the enormous opium production peak in Afghanistan during 1999. Heroin prices continued to decrease in western Europe, as well as in North America.

Production of cocaine in 2001 is estimated to have followed trends of previous years, with Colombia remaining the major producer country. Seizures for 2000 declined in both North America and western Europe, two major consumer markets. Both regions continue to reflect stable or decreasing trends in respect of cocaine prices.

Cannabis herb seizures have greatly increased in 2000, while interceptions of cannabis resin continue to reflect stabilization.

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Production and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants for the first time in many years show levelling-off and, in some instances, decreasing trends as regards methamphetamine in North America and amphetamine in western Europe. However, methamphetamine seizure trends continue to rise in east/south-east Asia. Finally, trafficking of Ecstasy-type substances show further increases worldwide, with western Europe, mainly the Netherlands, remaining the primary supplier.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking at the global and regional levels, and summarizes information received from Governments and other sources on that matter. The statistics and analyses, which are presented by drug type, provide an overview of (a) illicit cultivation and production of opium and coca leaf, (b) trafficking in opiates, cocaine and cannabis and (c) manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants.

2. The primary source of information used for the statistics and analyses presented in this report are replies to the annual reports questionnaire, part III (illicit traffic), submitted by Governments to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Though most analyses relate to a long-term trend of previous years, particular focus is given to 2000, the latest reporting year of the annual reports questionnaire. A total of 99 replies to the questionnaire for 2000 were received by 15 December 2001.

3. In identifying trends, information is also drawn from reports on individual significant seizure cases that have been furnished by some Governments to UNDCP. Approximately 30 countries are currently reporting significant seizure cases on a regular basis. During 2000, about 6,500 seizure cases were reported to UNDCP.

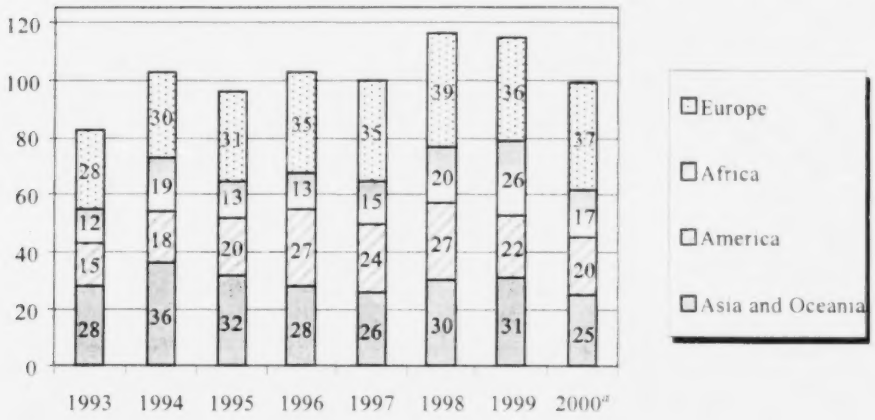
4. In the absence of replies to the annual reports questionnaire or other governmental information, or in cases where insufficient information was provided in the questionnaires, the following sources were used to supplement data: the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the Customs Cooperation Council (known as the World Customs Organization), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States.

5. Figure 1 provides an overview by region of the number of replies to the annual reports questionnaire received from countries and territories in recent years. It should be noted that the total number of replies to the 2000 annual reports questionnaire is not yet known as a number of replies are expected to be submitted late.

6. The main problems with regard to data relate to the irregularity and incompleteness in reporting, affecting the quantity, quality and comparability of information received. First, the irregular intervals at which some Governments report may result in absence of data in some years but availability in others. Lack of regular data, for which UNDCP tries to compensate by references to other sources, could influence trend patterns. Secondly, replies to the annual reports questionnaire are not always complete or sufficiently comprehensive. While data on seizures are provided by many Governments in a detailed manner, information on illicit crop cultivation and drug production, clandestine laboratories and manufacturing activities, as well as on particulars of prices, is often absent. Thirdly, differences in the criteria used for reporting in various countries, or in individual countries over a period of time, may distort the drug trafficking picture and trend analyses. For example, some countries include so-called "kitchen" laboratories in the total number of manufacturing sites detected, while others only count fully equipped clandestine laboratories. By the same token, a country that in the past has included "kitchen"

laboratories may then change its reporting practice and omit such detections. Also, the extent to which seizure statistics from countries constitute all reported national cases, regardless of the final destination of the illicit drug, may vary, making it difficult to assess international drug trafficking.

Figure I
Annual reports questionnaires received, by region, 1993-2000



[a] Preliminary figure.

7. Despite problems with regard to reporting on drug supply issues, the reporting performance of Governments on drug supply issues has improved in recent years. However, the inherent complexity of a number of indicators used to measure the illicit drug supply and trafficking problem, due to its illegal nature, often make it difficult to analyse the data received. With regard to illicit crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, the methodologies used for collecting data are extremely complex (and costly to implement), often taking into account almost irreconcilable elements, such as differing growing seasons, intercropping, varying yields and destroyed or lost harvests. Seizures of drugs remain a key indicator for trafficking trends. Seizure data are, however, indirect rather than direct indicators; they measure not only drug trafficking trends, but also the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities in each country. Finally, statistics on the detection of clandestine laboratories, which are used to measure illicit manufacturing activities, also have limitations. Statistics on the number and type of laboratories detected per country provide information on the location of illicit manufacturing activities and the types of illicit drugs produced, but they do not provide any indication of the volume of the drugs produced, as the production capacity of laboratories often remains unknown. Nevertheless, drug seizures made in the context of detecting clandestine laboratories represent a useful tool for the early identification of trends with regard to the exact type of drug produced, the precursors used and the synthesis methods applied. (By comparison, drug seizures at the street level, for example, often do not provide exact information concerning the type of drug seized. This is particularly common in the case of synthetic drugs; for example, in the differentiation of amphetamine-type stimulants).

8. One additional problem in the reporting of statistics on illicit drug supply that has been noted in recent years is related to seizure data. More and more countries are implementing joint operations where drugs are intercepted. Drug seizures are often reported by all countries involved in such joint activities. Similarly, seizure statistics from different agencies (i.e. customs, police) within the same country may include some duplication if more than one agency is involved in an interception. When that happens, the final annual seizure data reported by the country concerned will include duplicate seizure statistics, which distorts the analysis of trends, interception rates and so on.

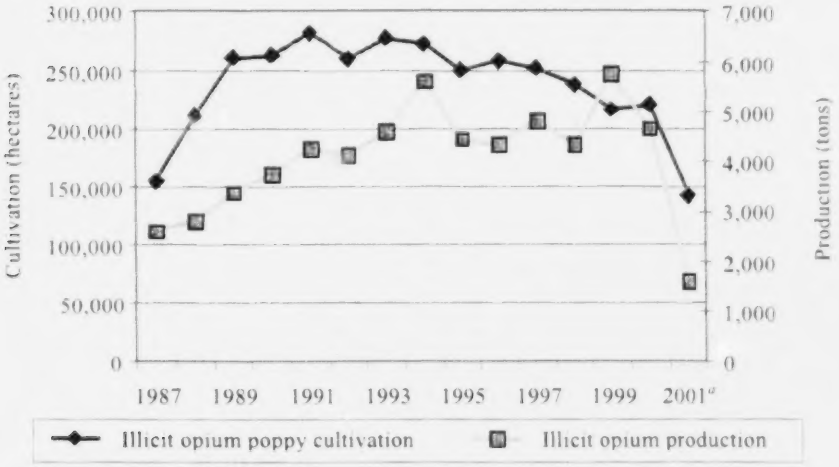
9. A new format of the annual reports questionnaire has been developed; it addresses some of the difficulties in reporting drug statistics. The new version of the annual reports questionnaire will be circulated to Member States in 2002 for reporting on 2001 drug trends.

II. Global trends in illicit crop cultivation and production of plant-based drugs, 2001

A. Opium

10. The year 2001 saw a significant decrease in illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production. Global opium poppy cultivation was estimated at 142,800 hectares, declining by over one third (36 per cent) from over 220,000 hectares in 2000. Illicit opium production fell by two thirds (66 per cent), from a total of over 4,600 tons to less than 1,600 tons (see figure 2).

Figure 2
Illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production: global trends, 1987-2001



[a] Data for 2001 are still preliminary.

11. The decline in illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production was mainly related to recent developments in Afghanistan, where opium production dropped from 3,276 tons in 2000 to 185 tons in 2001—a decrease of 94 per cent. Helmand, which in previous years had recorded the highest level of opium poppy cultivation, recorded no such cultivation in the 2001 season. Nangarhar, the province with the second highest level of opium poppy cultivation, is reported to have had a minimal cultivation area (218 hectares). Almost all major former poppy-growing provinces had no areas or relatively small areas under opium cultivation in 2001. That reduction is the result of the implementation of the opium poppy ban. Badakhshan, a province in the north, the area under opium poppy cultivation increased from 2,458 hectares in 2000 to 6,342 hectares in 2001, representing 83 per cent of the total area under such cultivation in the country.[1]

12. Illicit opium production in Myanmar was estimated to have remained more or less stable in 2001 compared with 2000. Over the last 10 years, illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has declined by 40 per cent; however, with the recent drop in opium production in Afghanistan, Myanmar has become the world's largest opium-producing country. The latest estimates indicate that some 1,100 tons of opium was harvested in 2001. Myanmar has formulated a 15-year plan with the aim of ceasing opium poppy cultivation in the country by 2014 and establishing a condition for sustainability.[2]

13. The Lao People's Democratic Republic remains the third largest opium producer in the world. A survey carried out in 2001 revealed a total of 17,255 hectares under opium poppy cultivation with a production capacity of 134 tons. That represents a reduction of 9.5 per cent compared with the previous year and confirms the downward trend since 1998, when the cultivation of opium poppy was estimated at 26,800 hectares. The survey further demonstrated that opium poppy cultivation continues to take place mainly in the six provinces targeted by the Opium Elimination Programme launched in 1998. The cultivation in those six provinces accounted for 89 per cent of the total area under cultivation.[3]

14. Illicit opium production remains limited in other countries in Asia, including in countries that had once been major opium producers. Pakistan, one of the main producers of opium in the early 1980s, successfully decreased its level of opium production to a minimum following a 15-year programme of alternative development. Trends in 2001 reflected a further decrease in opium production in Pakistan, which is currently estimated at about 5 tons. The decline in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan meant that a resurgence of such cultivation in Pakistan might be possible during 2001, but in the latest estimates there is not any indication of such a trend. The most recent data for Thailand suggest a possible increase in opium production during the 2001 harvest, to an annual production level of roughly 13 tons. For a period of 30 years, Thailand has ceased to be a major producer of opium. Opium production in Viet Nam has declined to very low amounts during the last two years. The sustained reduction of opium poppy cultivation has also been confirmed in the Islamic Republic of Iran; that country, which was a major opium producer until the late 1970s, has been virtually free of opium poppy for the last 20 years. Opium poppy cultivation in Central Asia remains negligible.[2]

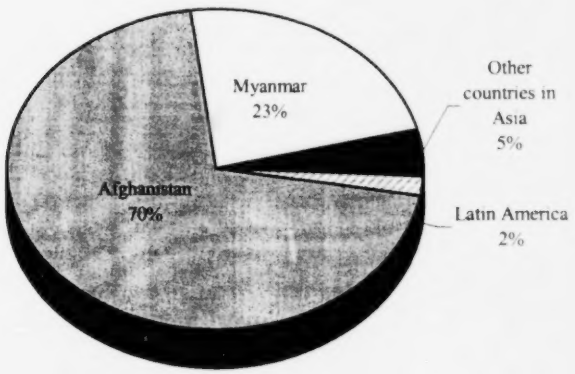
15. In Latin America, illicit opium production continues to take place mainly in Colombia and Mexico. Colombia reported in the annual reports questionnaire a total of 47 tons of opium produced in 2000, down from 73 tons in 1998 and 65 tons in 1999. Estimates available from other sources indicate slightly higher figures. No data are available from Colombia for 2001, but opium production is estimated to have remained relatively stable. Data on illicit opium poppy cultivation in Mexico continue to be scarce. The level of production in Mexico seems to be lower than in Colombia and has been estimated at around 20 tons in recent years. In the annual reports questionnaire for 2000, Mexico reported the eradication of 15,717 hectares of opium poppy.

16. A number of other countries reported illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2000, though only to a limited extent. In Africa, Egypt reported a total of 86 feddans (36.12 hectares) of opium poppy under cultivation. In the Americas, apart from Colombia and Mexico, the main opium producers in the region, Guatemala (0.75 hectares), Peru and Venezuela (181 hectares) had recorded limited opium poppy cultivation during 2000. In Asia, countries reporting illicit opium poppy cultivation, in addition to those mentioned above, included Armenia (0.20 hectare), India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon (3.9 hectares) and Uzbekistan (1.17 hectares). Finally, the following countries in Europe reported illicit opium poppy cultivation during 2000: Belarus (2.9 hectares), Italy, Latvia (2 hectares), Lithuania (10.8 hectares), Portugal (1,348 poppy plants), Spain and Turkey.

17. With the massive reduction of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, the producer countries' share of global production changed significantly (see figures 3 and 4). In 2000, Afghanistan accounted for about 70 per cent of global opium production; it was followed by Myanmar (23 per cent). Other Asian countries, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam, together accounted for 5 per cent of global production, and Latin America (Colombia and Mexico) accounted for 2 per cent. In 2001, Myanmar became the world's largest opium producer, accounting for 70 per cent of global production. Afghanistan's share was reduced to 12 per cent, equal to that of the other Asian countries together. Latin America accounted for 6 per cent of global opium production in 2001.

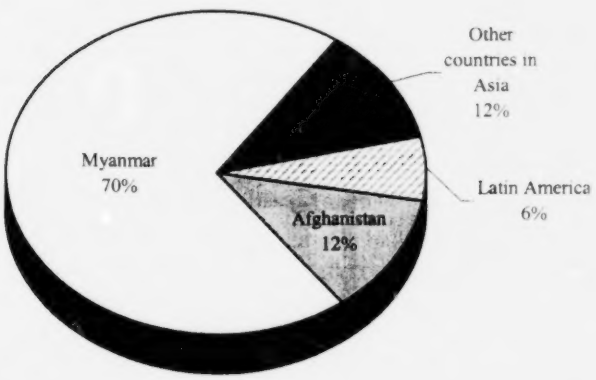
18. Prices of opium at the farm-gate level reflected significant changes in some producer countries during 2001. In Afghanistan, prices for fresh and dry opium increased greatly during that year. The average farm-gate price for fresh opium was US$ 301 per kilogram in 2001, a 10-fold increase from the previous years' average price of US$ 30 per kilogram. The potential gross income from the sale of fresh opium by growers was around US$ 56 million, approximately 38 per cent less than the estimate for 2000 (around US$ 91 million).[1] The reduction in opium production naturally resulted in a shortage of the availability of the drug; consequently, prices rose. Further sharp increases were noted after mid-2001—a possible indication that opiate stocks had started to be depleted. After the events of 11 September 2001, prices dropped significantly but they seem to have recovered since then (see figure 5).

Figure 3
Opium: shares of global production,[a] 2000
(Percentage)



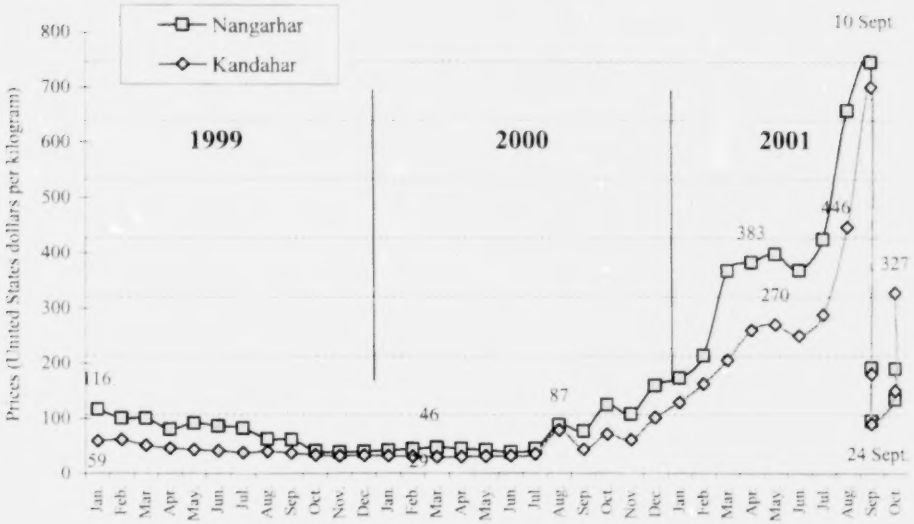
[a] Total: 4,558 tons.

Figure 4
Opium: shares of global production,[a] 2001
(Percentage)



[a] Total: approximately 1,570 tons.

Figure 5
Opium: farm-gate prices in Afghanistan, 1999-2001

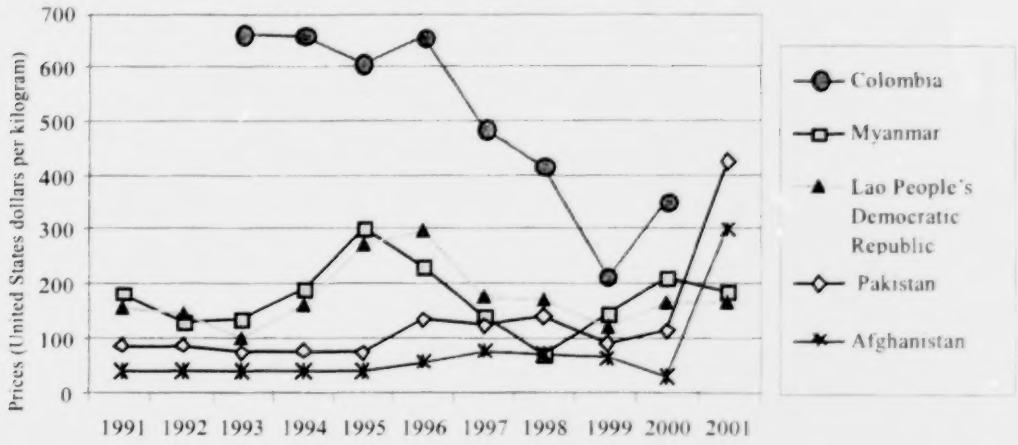


19. In Pakistan, opium farm-gate prices were following the sharply increasing trend in Afghanistan during 2001, with the average price at US$ 427 per kilogram. Prices for 2001 in south-east Asia were for the first time lower than in south-west Asia. In Myanmar, opium prices were assessed at US$ 189 per kilogram, or slightly lower than in 2000. Opium farm-gate prices in Thailand were significantly higher in 2001 than during the previous growing season.[4] Stable trends have been recorded in the Lao People's Democratic Republic: opium farm-gate prices were estimated at US$ 165 per kilogram in March 2001, compared with US$ 168 per kilogram in March 2000.[3] In Latin America, farm-gate prices for opium are generally higher than in Asia, but no exact data are available for 2001 (see figure 6).

20. If all of the opium produced in 2001 (approximately 1,570 tons) were converted into heroin, the heroin manufactured (calculated at the traditional 1:10 conversion rate for processing opium into heroin) would amount to about 157 tons.

21. In 2000, the world's potential for heroin manufacture was estimated at about 470 tons. The total amount of opiates seized in 2000 amounted to 96 tons (in heroin equivalent)—an interception rate of 20 per cent; that rate is relatively high as for opiates the interception rate usually varies between 10 and 15 per cent. However, such calculations cannot be very accurate since interceptions made during one year do not only relate to the drug production of the same year. Drugs harvested during one year could enter the illicit traffic in later years, after they have been stored. Heroin seizures reached a particularly high level in 2000; that is assumed to have been the result of the peak in opium production in 1999. Thus, the interception rate of 20 per cent based on figures for 2000 only is unrealistic.

Figure 6
Opium: farm-gate prices in producer countries, 1991-2001
(Constant 2001 United States dollars)

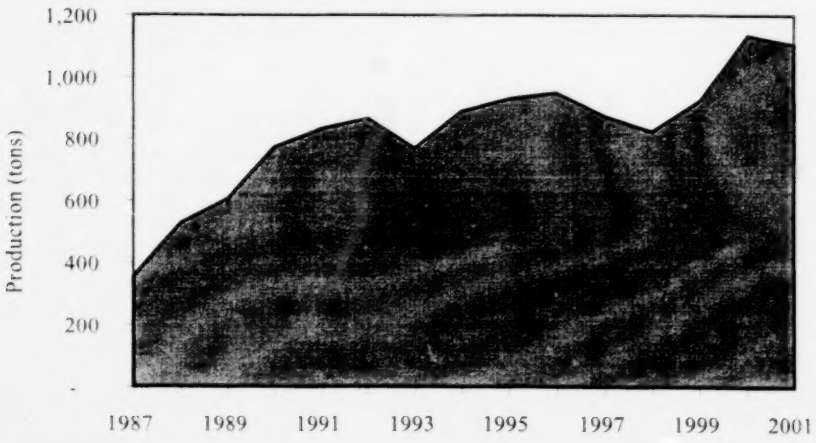


22. The potential availability of heroin on the world markets in 2000 was roughly 370 tons; however, that figure was derived by deducting global opiate seizures from the potential for heroin manufacture, a calculation that does not take into account the quantities of drugs destroyed or lost during the trafficking process. The potential availability of heroin in previous years varied between 360 and 570 tons; however, that is only the potential amount of heroin available as a large quantity continues to be consumed in the form of opium. With the significant decline in opium production in 2001, a maximum of 100-150 tons would be available to the world markets. The question remains as to the consequences of such a development for illicit heroin markets.

B. Coca

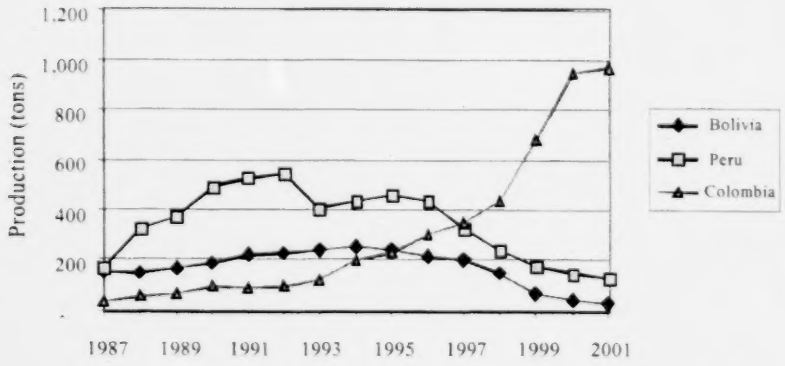
23. The information received on illicit coca bush cultivation in 2001 is scarce. It appears that, at the global level, the coca market has more or less stabilized in recent years, both in respect of coca production as well as consumption. Global cocaine manufacture continues to be estimated at roughly 800-1,000 tons per year, though the data available remain vague. It is likely that cocaine manufacture was even slightly higher in 2000 and 2001, owing to increases in Colombia in recent years (see figure 7).

Figure 7
Illicit coca leaf production: global trends, 1987-2001



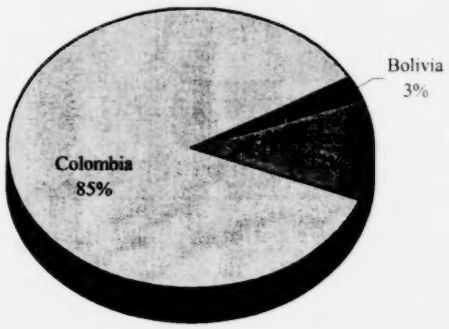
24. Trends in the three coca producer countries remain unchanged; declines in recent years in Bolivia and Peru were offset by sharp increases in Colombia (see figure 8). The total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in Bolivia has decreased to a minimum in recent years; it currently amounts to perhaps less than 2,000 hectares. The reduction of coca bush cultivation is also continuing in Peru, where it is estimated that a total area of roughly 30,000 hectares are under such cultivation, compared with over 200,000 hectares during the early 1990s. Colombia reported a total of 163,000 hectares under illicit coca bush cultivation in 2000 and for the first time in many years indicated a stable trend. Total cocaine manufacture was estimated at almost 950 tons in 2000; it is assumed that it will be at a similar level in 2001. In comparison, for 1999, Colombia reported its cocaine manufacture to be approximately 500-550 tons, a figure that was finally estimated to be 680 tons.

Figure 8
Illicit coca leaf production in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, 1987-2001



25. Of the three main cocaine-manufacturing countries, Colombia holds the lead position. Assuming that current estimates are correct, Colombia is expected to account for approximately 85 per cent of global cocaine manufacture in 2001. The cocaine manufacturing capacity of Peru and Bolivia are expected to diminish to 12 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively (see figure 9).

Figure 9
Cocaine manufacture[a] in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, 2001



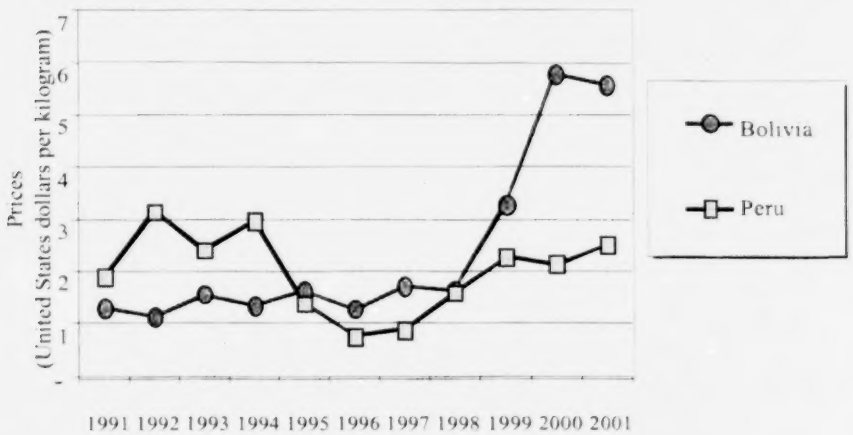
[a] Total: approximately 1,100 tons.

26. In addition to the traditional coca producer countries, Venezuela reported illicit coca bush cultivation in 2000, though to a limited extent only. The total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in that country amounted to 26 hectares, but the area under such cultivation was increasing.

27. Farm-gate prices for coca leaf have been rising in both Bolivia and Peru in recent years (see figure 10). In Bolivia, prices increased from an average of US$ 1.5 per kilogram during the mid-1990s to US$ 5.7 per kilogram in 2000. During 2001, a slight decrease to approximately US$ 5.5 per kilogram was noted. In Peru, coca leaf prices were assessed at US$ 2.5 per kilogram in 2001, compared with less than US$ 1.00 in previous years. Data on coca leaf prices are not available from Colombia.

28. Cocaine interception rates are more difficult to assess, since the estimates for cocaine manufacture are based on a larger error margin than estimates for opium production. During recent years, global seizure rates have been much higher for cocaine than for opiates, partly because of differences in the trafficking patterns. In 2000, the interception rate for cocaine was assessed at 30 per cent; cocaine seizures totalled approximately 330 tons. The potential availability of cocaine on world markets would be approximately 700 tons, though drugs destroyed or lost during the trafficking process would not have been taken into account in calculating that figure.

Figure 10
Coca leaf: farm-gate prices in Bolivia and Peru, 1991-2001
(Constant 2001 United States dollars)



III. Global and regional trends in trafficking in plant-based drugs, up to 2000

A. Opiates

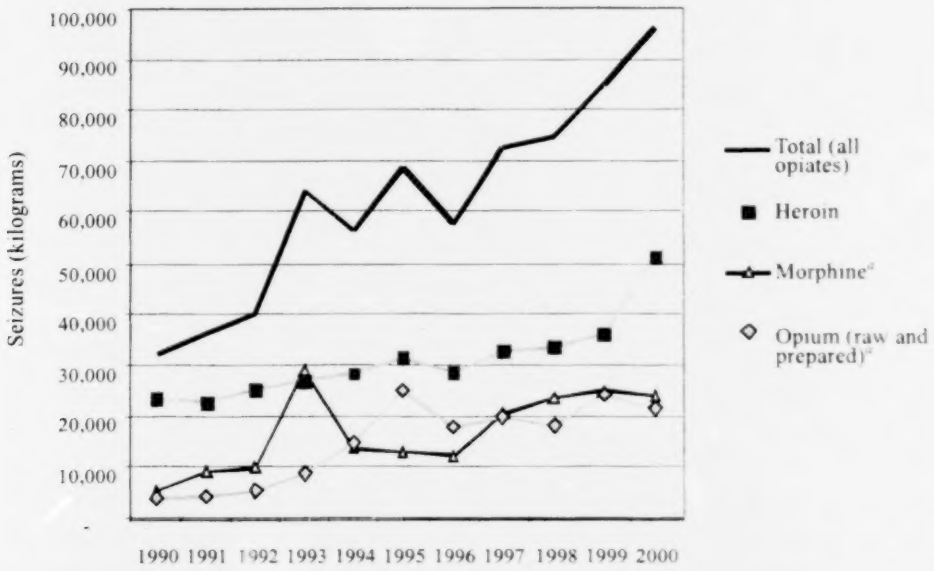
29. Global seizures of opiates (including heroin, morphine and opium—in heroin equivalent) increased from 85 tons in 1999 to 96 tons in 2000. It was mainly heroin seizures that accounted for the increase in 2000; seizures of morphine and opium decreased by 5 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. Global heroin seizures increased by over 40 per cent in 2000 (see figure 11).

30. The increase in seizures of opiates in 2000 is assumed to be the result of the peak in opium production in Afghanistan during 1999. The varying trends in respect of opium, morphine and heroin seizures may be explained as follows: reports received in recent years indicated that the processing of heroin was increasingly taking place closer to the production sites (that is, within Afghanistan, though the type and purity of the heroin manufactured were unknown and the quality was assumed to be low); in addition, the traditional smuggling of opiates in the form of opium and morphine into other countries, mainly Turkey, to be further refined and manufactured into heroin hydrochloride, continued. It appears that opiate drugs are more frequently leaving the producer country in the form of heroin; thus seizures of such drugs are increasing as is production, while opium and morphine seizures are decreasing slightly.

31. A total of 213 tons of opium was seized worldwide in 2000, which is a decrease from the 1999 peak (239 tons) but above the levels of previous years. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to record the largest amount of opium seizures worldwide (179 tons). That country accounts for more than 80 per cent of the global opium seizures. Other countries that reported significant opium seizures in 2000

include Pakistan (8.9 tons), Tajikistan (4.8 tons), India (2.7 tons), China (2.4 tons), Turkmenistan (2.3 tons), the Russian Federation (2.2 tons), Uzbekistan (2 tons), Myanmar (1.8 tons), Thailand (1.6 tons), the Republic of Moldova (1.5 tons) and Kyrgyzstan (1.4 tons). Most of those countries recorded an increase in opium seizures during 2000; the exceptions were the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Figure 11
Opium, morphine and heroin: trends in global seizures, 1990-2000



[a] In heroin equivalent.

32. Seizures of opium reflect the principal production and consumption areas, as well as potential locations for heroin processing or transit zones. The list of countries with the largest opium seizures in south-east Asia (China, Myanmar and Thailand) continues to mainly include those with the principal production and consumption areas. Opium seizures increased in south-east Asia during 2000. In south-west Asia, seizures of opium remain high in countries bordering Afghanistan (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), though only Tajikistan recorded an increase in opium seizures while other countries in that area recorded decreases in 2000 compared with 1999. That could be because heroin processing has increasingly shifted to areas within Afghanistan. The increase in Tajikistan is partly attributable to the strengthening of the law enforcement capacity in that country, which resulted in a significant increase in opium and heroin seizures during 2000.

33. Global morphine seizures decreased slightly from 24.8 tons in 1999 to 23.6 tons in 2000. As with opium, most seizures of morphine were recorded in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which accounted for 88 per cent of the morphine seized worldwide in 2000. (It must be noted, however, that some countries may be

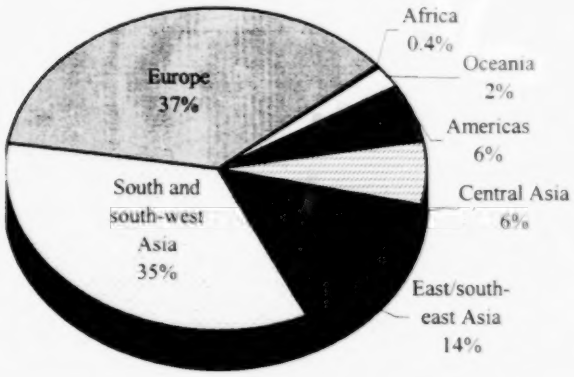
reporting morphine seizures together with heroin seizures as it is often not clear whether any differentiation has been made.) Morphine seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran decreased somewhat from 22.8 tons in 1999 to 20.8 tons in 2000. The only other country that continued to record significant quantities of morphine seizures was Turkey, where in 2000 such seizures reached the highest level ever recorded in that country (2.5 tons).

34. Morphine continued to be trafficked through the Islamic Republic of Iran into Turkey, to be converted into heroin. It appears, however, that the increased opium production in Afghanistan in 1999 did not affect this trafficking pattern, as seizures of morphine along that route reflected relatively stable trends during 2000.

35. Global heroin seizures, which have been steadily rising over the last decade, increased by another 40 per cent in 2000 compared with the figures for 1999. That is the largest annual increase ever recorded. Total seizures amounted to 51 tons, up from 33 tons in 1998 and 36 tons in 1999. It is particularly interesting to note that that increase was reflected in almost all regions and many countries worldwide.

36. Heroin seizures increased in most regions; however, the share of total seizures in each region remained more or less unchanged. South and south-west Asia continued to account for about one third of global heroin seizures. A similar share was accounted for by Europe. Central Asia accounted for 6 per cent. Heroin seizures in south-east Asia accounted for approximately 15 per cent of total seizures, and the share of such seizures in the Americas remained unchanged at 6 per cent (see figure 12).

Figure 12
Heroin seizures,[a] by region, 2000



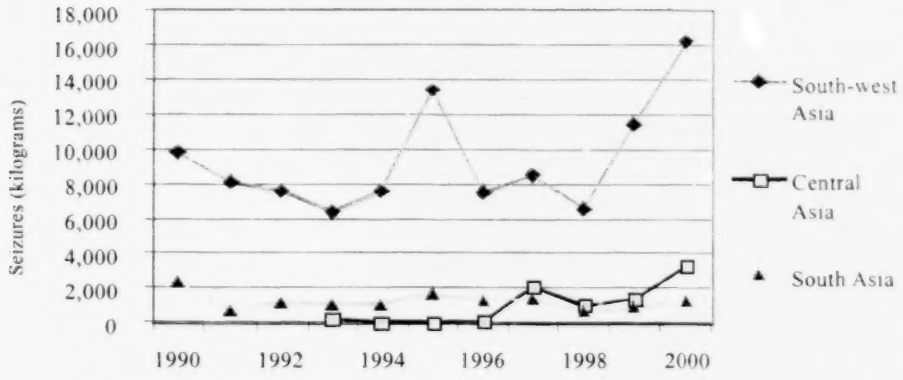
[a] Total: 51 tons.

37. In south and south-west Asia, many countries reported a significant increase in heroin seizures in 2000. Pakistan recorded a total of 9.5 tons of heroin seized, which was the largest volume of heroin seized in one year by any country worldwide. (The only time when a larger volume of heroin was seized was in 1995—again in Pakistan.) In 1999, seizures of heroin in Pakistan amounted to less than 5 tons. The Islamic Republic of Iran also recorded a relatively large volume of heroin seized in

2000—6.2 tons. Heroin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran were already at a high level in 1999, when they amounted to 6 tons; during the 1990s, however, the recorded volume was between 1 and 3 tons annually. A large increase in heroin seizures in 2000 was also reported in India (1.2 tons) and, to a lesser extent, in Sri Lanka (94 kg). India reported that most of the heroin seized in that country originated in south-west Asia, while only negligible amounts had originated in south-east Asia. Sri Lanka reported that the increase in its heroin seizures in 2000 was due to one single operation that resulted in the largest heroin seizure ever recorded. Other countries in south-west Asia with notable increases in heroin seizures in 2000 included Saudi Arabia (200 kg), Jordan (127 kg) and the United Arab Emirates (82 kg). Total heroin seizures in south and south-west Asia reached a record level of over 17.5 tons during 2000 (see figure 13).

38. Large increases in heroin seizures were also noted by countries in Central Asia. In that region, a record level of 3.3 tons of seized heroin was recorded in 2000, up from 1.4 tons in 1999 (see figure 13). The largest volume and most significant increase was reported in Tajikistan. That country recorded a total of 1.9 tons of seized heroin in 2000, compared with 700 kg in 1999—an increase of 166 per cent. Heroin seizures also increased in Uzbekistan (675 kg), Kazakhstan (262 kg) and Kyrgyzstan (216 kg). Uzbekistan reported an increasing number of attempts to smuggle larger consignments of heroin and opium out of Tajikistan. At the same time, though the bulk of the heroin continued to be transported by road, increasing use of air transport and the use of women and children as couriers had also been noted.

Figure 13
Heroin seizures: trends in south, south-west and Central Asia, 1990-2000



39. The increase in heroin seizures in south-west Asia and parts of Central Asia during 2000 reflects a continuation of the trend in 1999, when heroin seizures increased significantly after having remained at relatively stable levels for several years. That trend probably related to the high opium production level in Afghanistan in 1999 and, to a lesser extent, in 2000. Only countries in south-west Asia and Central Asia, in particular, countries bordering Afghanistan, recorded a significant increase in heroin seizures already in 1999 and a continuation of that trend in 2000, while most other countries worldwide recorded stable or even declining heroin

seizures in 1999. In 2000, heroin seizures rose in most regions worldwide. It seems that the opium production peak in Afghanistan in 1999 was reflected on world markets only in 2000. That could also be taken as an indication of opiates being stockpiled within the region.

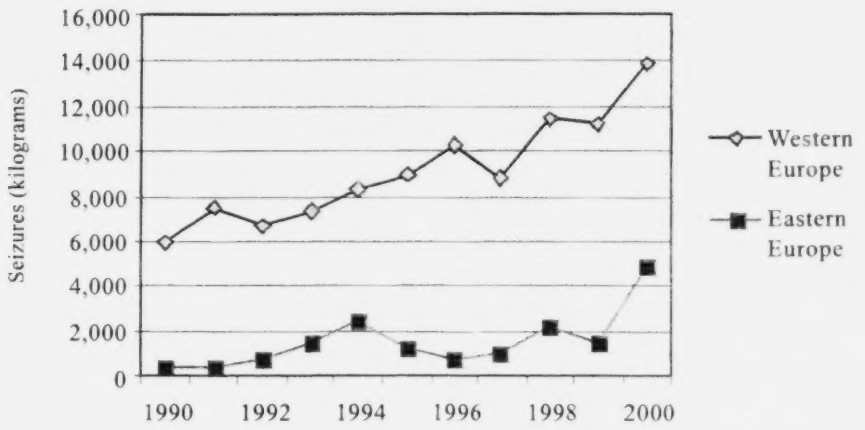
40. The three main routes used for smuggling opiates originating in Afghanistan into illicit markets worldwide (mainly in Europe and, to a lesser extent, North America), remained more or less unchanged. As described in reports over the last year, the northern route (via Tajikistan and countries in central Asia and eastern Europe) continues to be increasingly used, while the western route (via the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey and on to the Balkan route) and the southern route (via Pakistan) remain the most important routes used for smuggling opium and heroin. Pakistan reported that, though an increasing proportion of opiates originating in Afghanistan were being smuggled through Central Asia, the largest share continued to be transported through the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the one hand, and via Pakistan, on the other.

41. Heroin seizures in eastern Europe increased significantly in 2000, amounting to 4.8 tons, compared with 1.4 tons in 1999 (see figure 14). In respect of heroin seizures, many regions worldwide reflected relatively stable trends in 1999 and a significant rise in 2000. That trend was particularly reflected in eastern Europe, where the increase in heroin seizures amounted to 230 per cent. The largest volume of heroin seizures and most significant increase in such seizures were recorded in Bulgaria. That country reported over 2 tons of heroin seized during 2000, while its average annual heroin seizure level during recent years was about 300 kg. Heroin seizures in the Russian Federation have been rising steadily in recent years, reaching almost 1 ton in 2000. Other countries that recorded significant increases in heroin seizures during 2000 included Hungary (819 kg), Slovenia (392 kg) and Poland (120 kg). However, reports received from the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) continue to reflect low levels of heroin seizures.

42. In western Europe, heroin seizures increased by 24 per cent, from just above 11 tons in 1998 and 1999 to 13.8 tons in 2000 (see figure 14). Though that represented a considerable increase, it was less than the increase in other regions. In recent years, the market for heroin in western Europe has been described as being saturated. The overall trend towards stabilization may still be continuing, though more opiates were smuggled into the region in 2000 following the opium production peak in Afghanistan during 1999. Turkey reported 6 tons of heroin seized during 2000, a sharp increase compared with 1999 (3.6 tons) and the highest volume of heroin seizures ever recorded in that country. That figure also ranked among the highest figures for heroin seizures recorded worldwide during 2000; only Pakistan recorded a significantly higher figure (9 tons), while similar figures were reported by China and the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the most significant increases in heroin seizures in western Europe was reported by Greece. Heroin seizures in that country increased from an average of 100-200 kg per year over the last decade to 1.2 tons in 2000. Other countries in western Europe with relatively large increases in heroin seizures during 2000 included Portugal (567 kg), Austria (230 kg) and Belgium (187 kg). In the Netherlands (896 kg) and France (443 kg), heroin seizures also increased in 2000 compared with 1999, though both countries had reported even higher levels during previous years. Decreasing trends were recorded in the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (preliminary figure of 1.5 tons), Italy (980 kg) and Spain (484 kg).

Figure 14
Heroin seizures: trends in Europe, by subregion, 1990-2000



43. Heroin seizures recorded in countries in Europe indicate that trafficking routes have remained more or less unchanged. The massive heroin seizure volumes and significant increases in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, along with slightly less considerable increases reported in Albania, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, reflect the fact that the Balkan route continues to be the most important route used for smuggling heroin originating in Afghanistan and destined for western Europe. A number of countries in western Europe, including Austria, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Turkey, reported that the Balkan route and its various branches were still the most significant supply routes used for transporting heroin to the region. Secondly, rising trends in several eastern and central European countries (primarily the Russian Federation but also other countries such as Austria, Hungary, Poland and, to a slightly lesser extent, the Czech Republic and Slovakia) suggest that drugs are being transported via Central Asia and eastern Europe. Turkey reported that drug smugglers were increasingly storing their consignments in eastern European countries and were making smaller deliveries from there to countries further west. Finally, several countries in western Europe continued to serve as important entry points for heroin consignments. The decrease of heroin seizures in Spain may have been the result of Portugal being increasingly used as a transit country, because seizures in Portugal increased significantly in 2000. Belgium and the Netherlands recorded increased heroin seizures, and that area continued to serve as an important entry point for drugs in western Europe. The decrease in heroin seizures in the United Kingdom (a country for which only preliminary figures are currently available) was in line with the pattern of fluctuations recorded in that country since 1995; the trend there appears to be relatively stable. In the context of trafficking routes, the United Kingdom reported the emergence of the United Arab Emirates as a transit point for heroin smuggled via Pakistan.

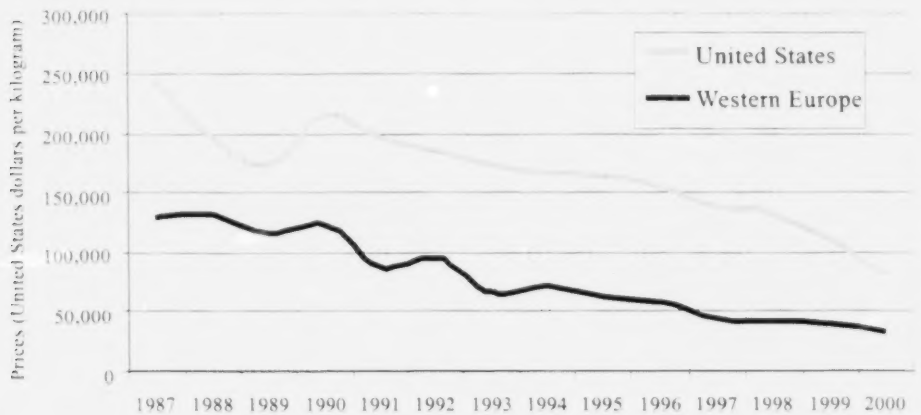
44. The smuggling of heroin into Europe is dominated by organized groups of Turkish and Albanian origin, as reported by Belgium, Greece and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom noted growing evidence of more criminals from the United Kingdom dealing directly with Turkish-based heroin manufacturers as opposed to purchasing the drugs via Turkish criminals based in the United Kingdom. Other countries, such as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Pakistan, reported that the organization of heroin trafficking remained to a large extent in the hands of nationals of countries in eastern and western Africa.

45. Heroin prices in western Europe, which have been following a downward trend over the last decade, continued to decrease in 2000, at both the wholesale level and the retail level. At the same time, purity levels seem to have risen, as noted in reports by several European countries, in particular, the United Kingdom. Unconfirmed reports for 2001 suggest that the United Kingdom has been flooded with the cheapest heroin ever sold on its streets. That trend has presumably been caused by the increased supply from Afghanistan. Heroin prices in the United States of America continue to be considerably higher than in western Europe but have followed a similar declining trend (see figure 15).

Figure 15

Heroin: wholesale prices in western Europe and the United States of America, 1987-2000

(Constant 2000 United States dollars)



Note. The weighted average (by population) for Europe includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

46. In the Americas, heroin seizures, which have been steadily rising over the last decade, reached a record level of over 3 tons in 2000 (see figure 16). The increase compared with 1999 was 30 per cent, one of the largest increases recorded at the regional level. Heroin seizures continued to rise in Colombia (563 kg) and in its neighbouring countries, Ecuador (108 kg) and Venezuela (195 kg), as well as in the United States (1.7 tons); seizures of heroin in Mexico (300 kg) also increased slightly over recent years. Those five countries together accounted for 95 per cent of the heroin seizures in the Americas.

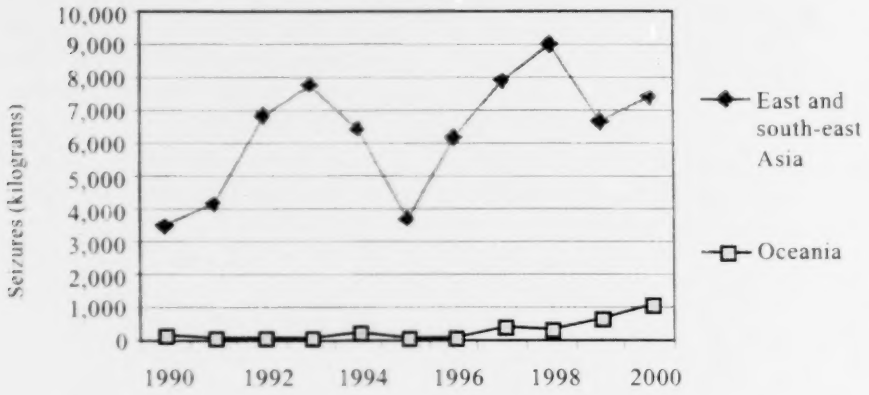
47. The United States reported four main sources of heroin. First, nearly all of the heroin manufactured in Mexico is said to be destined for distribution in the United States, mainly the western part of that country. Secondly, heroin manufactured in Colombia is readily available in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the United States and is continuing to spread to other parts of the country; Colombian heroin continues to be characterized by high quality, with purity levels frequently above 90 per cent. Thirdly, heroin with a high purity level also originates in south-east Asia, though a decrease in heroin from that source has been noted over the past few years. Finally, south-west Asian heroin is also smuggled into the United States.

Figure 16
Heroin seizures: trends in the Americas, 1990-2000

48. Heroin seizures in south-east Asia, which were relatively low in 1999, increased again in 2000. A total of 7.4 tons of heroin was seized in the region, a figure which represents an increase of 11 per cent compared with 1999 but lies below the figures for 1997 and 1998. The increase in 2000 was mainly due to China, which recorded a total of 6.2 tons of seized heroin. In addition, heroin seizures increased in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China (339 kg) and decreased slightly in Thailand (385 kg), Myanmar (158 kg) and Malaysia (109 kg). China appears to have remained one of the most important transit countries for heroin trafficking in the region. The Hong Kong SAR of China reported that heroin originating in the Golden Triangle is transported overland into mainland China, where large quantities are stored for further distribution. Malaysia reported that the land route along its border area with Thailand has remained vulnerable to trafficking in opiates (see figure 17).

49. A record level of heroin seizures was also recorded in Oceania in 2000, amounting to 1.1 tons compared with 690 kg in 1999 and an average of less than 400 kg in previous years. Australia accounts for the bulk of heroin seizures in the region. Heroin seizures rose during 1999 and 2000, amounting to 735 kg in 2000. In addition, a relatively large quantity of heroin (358 kg) was seized in Fiji during 2000.

Figure 17
Heroin seizures: trends in east and south-east Asia and Oceania, 1990-2000

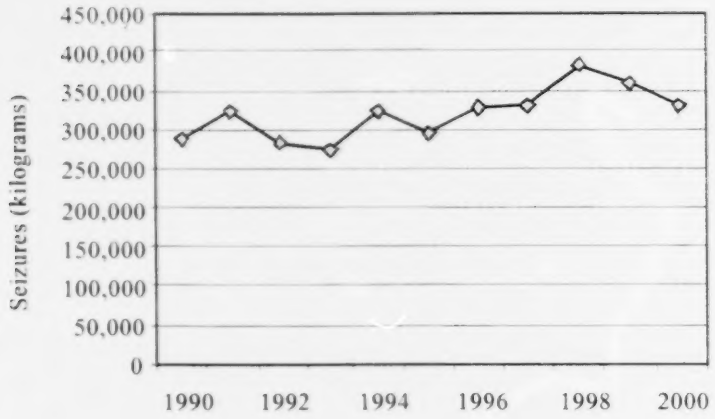


50. As in the past, reported heroin seizures in Africa were at a relatively low level in 2000. That was in part attributable to difficulties relating to law enforcement capacities in the region and lack of reporting rather than truly reflecting the extent of drug trafficking. However, increased heroin seizures were reported in 2000 by Kenya (29 kg), Ethiopia (18 kg), Egypt (37 kg) and South Africa (15 kg). The largest volume of heroin seizures was reported by Nigeria (55 kg); that figure, however, represented a decrease compared with the figure for 1999.

B. Cocaine

51. Measured in terms of the global seizure level, cocaine trafficking appears to have slightly decreased during 2000. Cocaine seizures worldwide decreased from about 380 tons in 1998 and 360 tons in 1999 to 330 tons in 2000 (see figure 18).

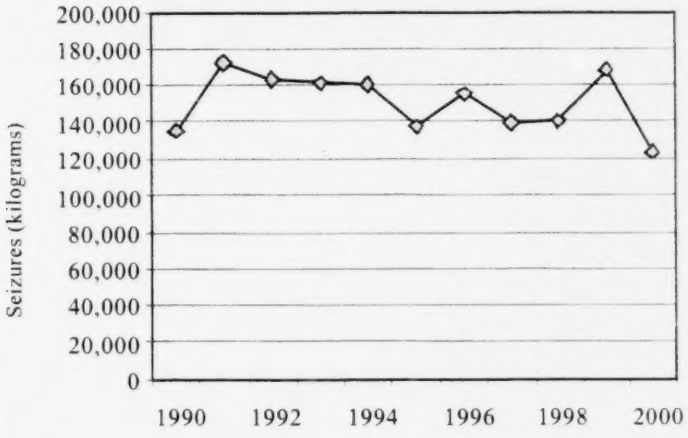
Figure 18
Cocaine seizures: global trends, 1990-2000



52. The most notable decreases in cocaine seizures occurred in North America and western Europe, the two main illicit markets for cocaine. Whether this suggests a saturation or even a decline of cocaine consumption worldwide remains to be seen. To what extent cocaine may be replaced by other drugs such as amphetamine-type stimulants continues to be the subject of much discussion. Another explanation for the declining seizure rates could be shifts in the use of trafficking routes and the expansion of new illicit markets for cocaine, such as in eastern Europe, where cocaine seizures are rising.

53. All three countries in North America—Canada, Mexico and the United States—recorded a significant decrease in cocaine seizures. Though data from the United States are still preliminary, the figure reported for 2000 (99.7 tons) reflects a decrease of 25 per cent compared with 1999 and, for the first time since 1990, is below 100 tons. Cocaine seizures in Mexico decreased from 35 tons in 1999 to 23.2 tons in 2000, though that decline was within the normal fluctuation range of cocaine seizures in that country since 1994. A more significant decrease was noted in Canada, where cocaine seizures fell to a record low of 277 kg, compared with 1.6 tons in 1999. In 2000, total cocaine seizures in North America amounted to 123 tons, the lowest level recorded since 1988 (see figure 19).

Figure 19
Cocaine seizures: trends in North America, 1990-2000

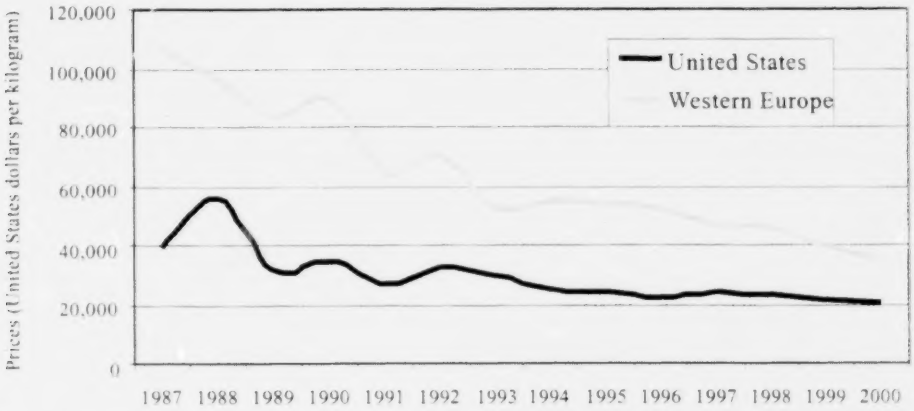


54. The United States reported that its south-west border with Mexico continues to be the primary point of entry for cocaine shipments being smuggled into the United States. According to an intelligence assessment, approximately 65 per cent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States crosses that border. While organized criminal groups operating in Colombia control the supply of cocaine worldwide, in the United States, the role of drug trafficking organizations based in Mexico is continuing to grow. Cocaine use in the United States has reportedly remained at a high level in recent years.

55. Prices of cocaine in the United States have been relatively stable in recent years, a further indication of how saturated the illicit market is there. In western Europe, cocaine prices have been falling during the last decade, at both the

wholesale level and the retail level. Developments in 2000 suggest a further decline in cocaine prices in western Europe (see figure 20). Declining prices might be the result of increased supply and/or decreased demand. With cocaine seizure levels also declining at the regional level, there is no indication of the cocaine supply to Europe continuing to rise.

Figure 20
Cocaine: wholesale prices in western Europe and the United States of America, 1987-2000
(Constant 2000 United States dollars)



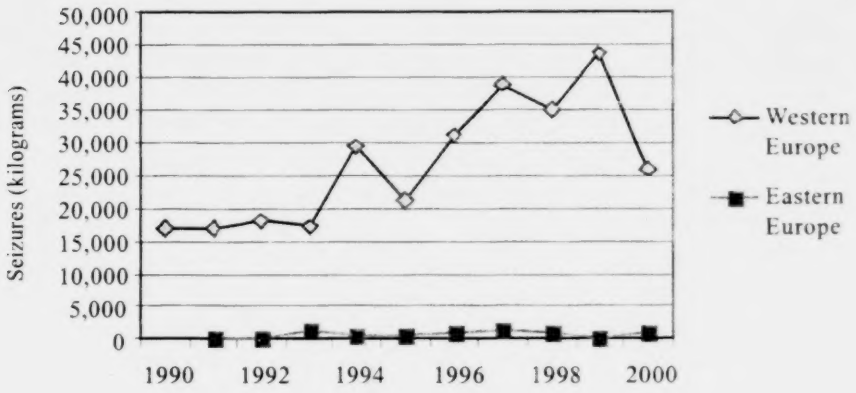
Note: The weighted average (by population) for Europe includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

56. Cocaine seizures in western Europe, which have been steadily rising during the last decade, significantly decreased in 2000 (see figure 21). Cocaine seizures in that subregion amounted to 25.7 tons, which represents a decrease of 40 per cent compared with the figure for 1999 (43 tons) and is the lowest level recorded since 1995. Decreased cocaine seizures were noted in almost all western European countries that serve as entry points for cocaine trafficking in the subregion and regularly record the largest seizure volumes. Those countries include the United Kingdom, where cocaine seizures decreased from almost 3 tons in 1999 to 2 tons in 2000 (though figures from the United Kingdom are still preliminary). The Netherlands recorded a decrease in cocaine seizures from 10 tons in 1999 to 6.5 tons in 2000. Italy reported a total of 2.3 tons of cocaine seized in 2000, a decrease compared with the total of 3 tons recorded in 1999. Cocaine seizures in France declined from 3.7 tons in 1999 to 1.3 tons in 2000. Spain, which had regularly recorded the highest level of cocaine seizures in Europe, reported a decrease in such seizures, from 18 tons in 1999 to 6 tons in 2000. Finally, Germany reported that cocaine seizures decreased from 2 tons in 1999 to 915 kg in 2000. The only countries that recorded a significant increase in such seizures in 2000 were Portugal (3 tons) and Belgium (2.8 tons). Belgium and Portugal appear to have become important transit points, for seizures of cocaine (and of heroin) have risen

considerably in both countries, suggesting that the main point of entry for illicit drug consignments destined for Europe has shifted from the Netherlands and Spain.

57. While cocaine seizures have decreased in many western European countries, some countries in eastern Europe have recorded relatively large seizures (see figure 21). Croatia, where the volume of cocaine seizures had been very low in recent years, reported having seized a total of 913 kg of cocaine in 2000. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded a relatively large volume of cocaine seizures in 2000, amounting to 164 kg. That could suggest that eastern Europe is being increasingly used as a point of entry for cocaine shipments destined for illicit markets in Europe. However, data from many other countries in eastern Europe show that the volume of cocaine seizures has remained low. Slovenia reported that a new point of entry for cocaine shipments to Europe had been detected, namely the port at Koper. That port is also used as a point of entry for heroin consignments destined for Europe.

Figure 21
Cocaine seizures: trends in Europe, by subregion, 1990-2000



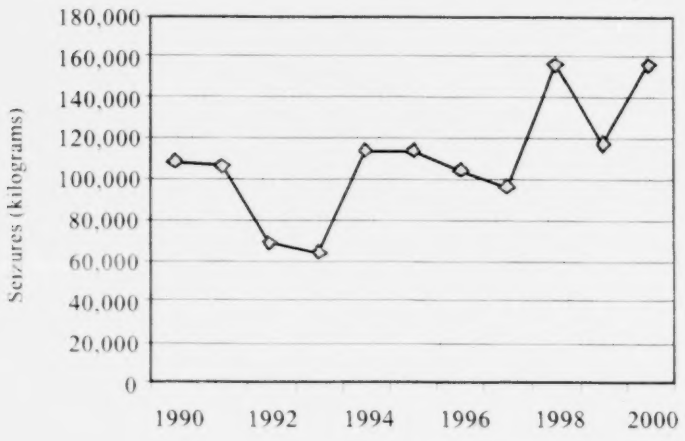
58. Cocaine seizures in South America rose significantly in 2000 compared with 1999, reaching a high level similar to the one reached in 1998 (see figure 22). The increase in 2000 was mainly attributable to increasing seizures in Colombia. That country recorded seizures totalling 110 tons in 2000 (including about 90 tons of cocaine hydrochloride and 20 tons of coca base), compared with 63 tons in 1999 (47 tons of cocaine hydrochloride and 16 tons of coca base). In addition, in both years, a significant quantity of liquid cocaine was reported seized in Colombia. Seizures made in Colombia account for one third of global seizures and 70 per cent of the seizures in South America. Some countries bordering Colombia, including Ecuador and Venezuela, have also noted increasing seizures in recent years. In 2000, seizures in Venezuela continued to rise, amounting to 14.7 tons, while those in Ecuador reflected a significant decrease (3.3 tons) compared with 1999.

59. As for other coca-producing countries, cocaine seizures continued to decrease in Bolivia. Seizures there decreased steadily from 12.3 tons in 1997 to 5.6 tons in 2000. In Peru, however, where a large decline in such seizures was noted during the

mid-1990s, seizures have been on the rise again since 1998. In 2000, a total of 11.8 tons of cocaine was seized, an increase of 5 per cent compared with 1999.

60. Cocaine seizures in several other countries in South America fluctuated as in previous years. Argentina reported a total of 2.3 tons of cocaine seized during 2000, an increase compared with 1998 and 1999 but a decrease compared with previous years. Seizures made in Chile, which have been fluctuating between 2.6 and 2.9 tons in recent years, decreased somewhat in 2000, amounting to 2 tons. Seizures in Brazil, which had been increasing in recent years, decreased from 7.5 tons in 1999 to 5.5 tons in 2000. Such fluctuations, however, may be related to the nature of cocaine trafficking (cocaine tends to be transported in bulk quantities) rather than any specific trend in cocaine trafficking in those countries.

Figure 22
Cocaine seizures: trends in South America, 1990-2000



61. Fluctuations in cocaine seizures have also been noted by countries in Central America and the Caribbean. In 2000 seizures increased in Panama (8 tons) and Costa Rica (5.6 tons) while Guatemala recorded a significant decrease, from an annual average of almost 10 tons in previous years to 1.5 tons in 2000. Slightly rising trends were noted by some countries and territories in the Caribbean, including the Bahamas (2.3 tons), the Cayman Islands (1.8 tons) and the Netherlands Antilles (965 kg), while Jamaica recorded a decrease (1.6 tons). Such trends could be related to normal yearly fluctuations as well as shifts from one country to another. However, no specific changes in trafficking routes were reported.

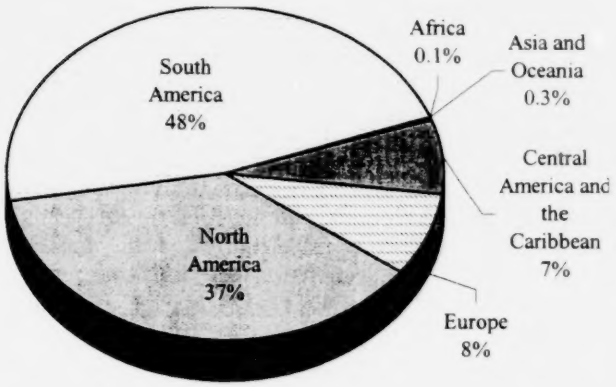
62. Cocaine seizures remained low in Africa. That is possibly a reflection of the difficulties faced by law enforcement agencies, combined with incomplete reporting, rather than an indication of the true trafficking trends. Reported cocaine seizures at the regional level have decreased in recent years, amounting to 420 kg in 2000. Relatively large quantities and increasing trends were reported by Angola (173 kg), Nigeria (53 kg) and Benin (21 kg), while seizures in South Africa, which regularly reported the highest volume in the region, declined from 345 kg in 1999 to 91 kg in 2000. Africa continues to be used as a transit zone for trafficking in

cocaine as well as heroin. The problems and consequences of drugs being transported across their territories were reported by various African countries including the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The spill-over effect was one of the consequences reported by South Africa, where drug abuse continues to rise. Nigeria reported a decrease in the smuggling of drugs through its territory, a direct result of increased vigilance on the part of law enforcement. However, drug trafficking is assumed to have shifted to neighbouring countries.

63. Cocaine seizures in Asia remain very low. Total cocaine seizures in the region have been declining in recent years, amounting to 105 kg in 2000. Countries that recorded seizures in the range of 10-40 kg in 2000 included Indonesia, Israel, Japan and Kuwait. Asia appears not to be affected by cocaine trafficking to a large extent.

64. Because of the exceptionally large decrease in cocaine seizures in North America and Europe during 2000, for each of those regions the percentage share of global cocaine seizures declined considerably. In North America, seizures in 1999 accounted for 47 per cent of the global total, but only 37 per cent of that total in 2000. Europe's share of 12 per cent of the global total in 1999 was reduced to 8 per cent in 2000. Though cocaine seizures in Central America and the Caribbean also decreased slightly in 2000, that region's percentage share of the global total remained more or less the same (7 per cent). South America, however, accounted for 48 per cent of the global total in 2000, compared with 33 per cent in 1999 (see figure 23).

Figure 23
Cocaine seizures:[a] by region, 2000

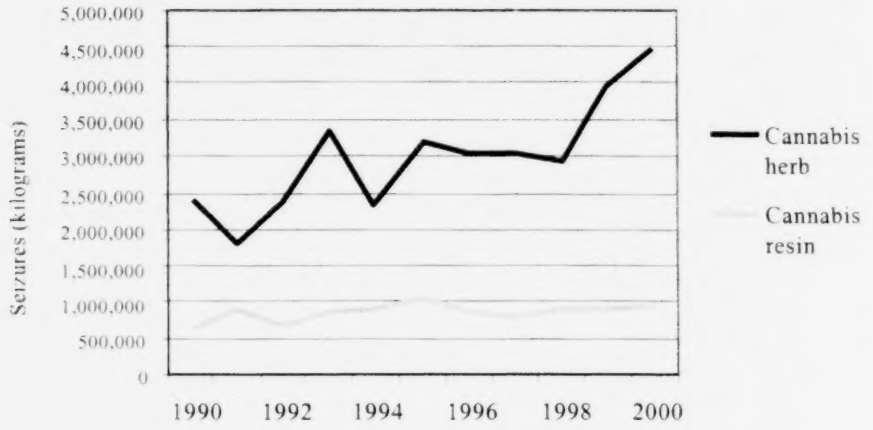


[a] Total: 330 tons.

C. Cannabis

65. The most important trend observed in cannabis trafficking during 2000 was the large increase in seizures of cannabis herb at the global level. Global seizures of cannabis herb amounted to approximately 2,000 tons during the early 1990s, rose to about 3,000 tons between 1995 and 1998 and reached almost 4,000 tons in 1999. A further increase was noted in 2000, when global seizures of cannabis herb amounted to almost 4,500 tons, the highest level ever recorded (see figure 24). Global seizures of cannabis resin have been levelling off at approximately 900 tons since 1998 (see figure 24).

Figure 24
Cannabis herb and cannabis resin: global seizures, 1990-2000



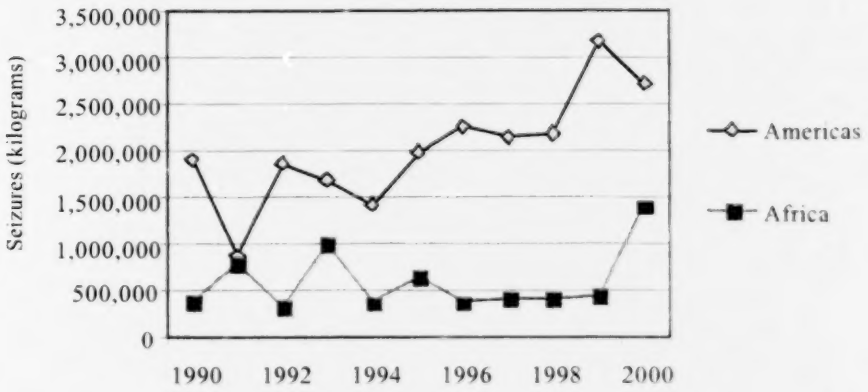
66. Cannabis herb remains the most widely trafficked and consumed plant-based drug; in recent years the trend seems to be rising, particularly in its primary producer and consumer regions, Africa and the Americas.

67. The large increase in seizures of cannabis herb during 2000 was mainly the result of seizures made in some countries in Africa, while the Americas, which usually accounted for the largest volume of seizures of cannabis herb, recorded a decrease in 2000 (see figure 25). Despite limited data available from Africa, seizures of cannabis herb reached a record level of 1,400 tons, up from approximately 350-650 tons recorded in recent years. Increases during 2000 occurred mainly in South Africa (718 tons), Malawi (312 tons) and Nigeria (272 tons). A number of African countries, including Malawi, South Africa, the Sudan and Togo, reported that cannabis remained the drug of greatest concern.

68. The Americas have accounted for about 70-80 per cent of global seizures of cannabis herb in recent years. In 2000, that region's share of global seizures of cannabis herb declined to 60 per cent. In 2000, seizures of cannabis herb fell from the previous year's peak of almost 3,200 tons to 2,700 tons, which nevertheless remains the second highest level ever recorded. The decline in the Americas during 2000 was mainly due to the United States, which reported having seized a total of 218 tons of cannabis herb, which marked a decrease from a peak of almost

1,200 tons in 1999 and the lowest level recorded since the early 1990s. By contrast, Mexico reported in 2000 a large increase in seizures of cannabis herb: 2,050 tons, the highest level ever reported by any country worldwide. Mexico has also recorded very large seizures of cannabis herb in recent years, amounting to above 1,000 tons between 1996 and 1998 and almost 1,500 tons in 1999. Seizures of cannabis herb in Canada increased from 44 tons in 1999 to 70 tons in 2000.

Figure 25
Cannabis herb: seizure trends in Africa and the Americas, 1990-2000



69. As for the sources of cannabis herb available in the United States, it was reported that cannabis herb produced in Mexico continued to be the most widely available variety in the United States. Substantial amounts of cannabis herb in the United States also came from Colombia and Jamaica. In the United States, there is also an incipient flow of cannabis herb hydroponically cultivated in Canada; it is believed that such highly potent cannabis herb from Canada has already significantly increased its share of the illicit market in the United States. Finally, domestic cannabis herb, whether it is grown indoors or outdoors, is also becoming increasingly available in the United States.

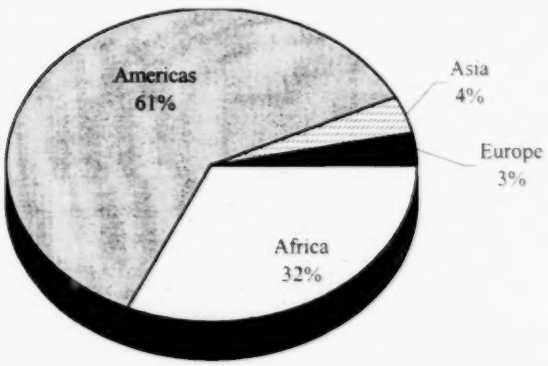
70. In South America, a sharp rise in seizures of cannabis herb was recorded by Brazil. The country reported having seized a total of almost 160 tons of cannabis herb in 2000, compared with 70 tons in 1999 and an annual average of less than 30 tons in previous years. Smaller increases in such seizures were reported in Colombia (75 tons), Argentina (25 tons), Ecuador (18 tons) and Venezuela (15 tons). Finally, Jamaica continued to record the largest volume of seizures of cannabis herb in the Caribbean, amounting to 55 tons in 2000, similar to the level reported in 1999.

71. Europe continues to be only a secondary market for cannabis herb, while it remains the principal destination for shipments of cannabis resin. Seizures of cannabis herb decreased in 2000 in eastern and western Europe. The most notable declines in such seizures were recorded in the Netherlands (10 tons) and the Russian Federation (23 tons), while Italy (26 tons), Switzerland (18 tons), Greece (15 tons) and Ukraine (12 tons) recorded small increases.

72. In Asia, India reported a particularly large rise in seizures of cannabis herb: from 38 tons in 1999 to over 100 tons in 2000. It should be noted that seizures of cannabis herb tend to fluctuate more than seizures of other drugs and a one-year change in seizure volume may not mean that a new trend is emerging.

73. Europe and Asia together continue to account for less than 10 per cent of global seizures of cannabis herb. Africa's share of those global seizures increased from approximately 10 per cent to 30 per cent while the share of the Americas decreased from about 80 per cent to 60 per cent (see figure 26).

Figure 26
Cannabis herb: seizures,[a] by region, 2000

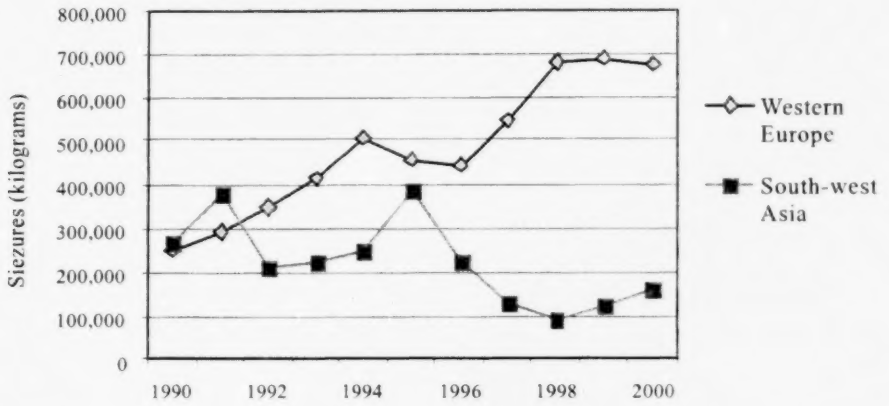


[a] Total: 4,450 tons.

74. While cannabis herb continues to be the drug of choice in Africa and the Americas, cannabis resin remains the main cannabis-type drug consumed in Europe. Though data on the extent of cannabis cultivation remains fragmented, the information available, including seizure statistics, indicates few changes with regard to the movement of cannabis resin from the producer regions to the consumer regions. Primary sources of cannabis resin continue to be North Africa and south-west Asia.

75. South-west Asia continues to record large seizures of cannabis resin, though the level of such seizures has been lower in recent years compared with the early 1990s (see figure 27). The bulk of the seizures are made in Pakistan (130 tons) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (32 tons); both of those countries recorded an increase in such seizures in 2000 compared with 1999. Other countries in the region with increased seizures of cannabis resin in 2000 included Iraq (570 kg), Lebanon (360 kg), Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic (220 kg), though the level of seizures in those countries remained below the level of previous years. In 2000, a decrease in such seizures was recorded by some countries on the Arab peninsula, including the United Arab Emirates (940 kg) and Qatar (130 kg).

Figure 27
Cannabis resin: seizure trends in western Europe and south-west Asia, 1990-2000



76. Seizures of cannabis resin remain limited in other parts of Asia, with the exception of south Asia: such seizures continue to be relatively large in India (5 tons) and Nepal (1.8 tons).

77. In North Africa, though no seizure data are available from Morocco, seizures of cannabis resin declined in 2000 in other countries in the region, such as Algeria (1.7 tons), Tunisia (540 kg) and Egypt (525 kg). Relatively large seizures of cannabis resin were recorded during 2000, in some countries in other parts of Africa such as Mozambique (15 tons), South Africa (11 tons), Kenya (6 tons) and Senegal (5 tons). Data from African countries, however, are still insufficient for conclusions to be drawn on possible emerging trends. Cannabis seizures generally tend to fluctuate more widely than seizures of other drugs; thus, it remains to be seen whether the decrease in North Africa and increase in other parts of Africa could be considered a one-year fluctuation or marked the beginning of a trend.

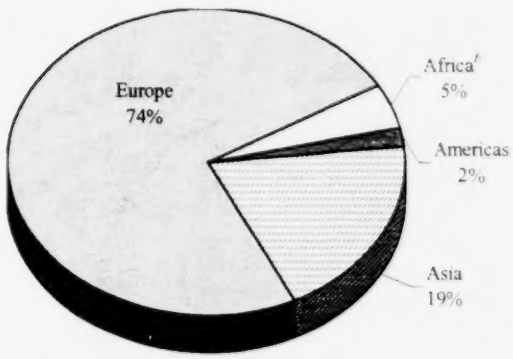
78. Europe remains the principal consumer region for cannabis resin. In western Europe, seizures have been relatively stable over the last three years, following a steady rise during the 1990s (see figure 27). Total seizures of cannabis resin in western Europe amounted to 675 tons in 2000, which is marginally below the 1999 level. Spain continues to be the main point of entry of cannabis resin in western Europe. Over 470 tons of cannabis resin were sized in Spain in 2000, or 45 per cent of the total for western Europe. Seizures of cannabis resin in Spain have been rising steadily over the last decade. Portugal has recorded increased seizures of cannabis resin in recent years; such seizures amounted to over 30 tons in 2000. Increased seizures of cannabis resin in 2000 were also noted by Turkey (28.6 tons), Germany (8 tons), Switzerland (1.2 tons) and Sweden (1 ton). Several other countries with sea borders in western Europe seem to have been used less frequently as transit points for smuggling cannabis resin into western Europe. Countries that recorded a decrease in seizures of cannabis resin in 2000 included France (48 tons), the Netherlands (29 tons), the United Kingdom (28 tons), Italy (20 tons), Denmark (3 tons), Norway (630 kg), Belgium (530 kg) and Ireland (360 kg).

79. With rising trends in south-west Asia, eastern Europe is being increasingly used as a transit point for shipments of cannabis resin destined for western Europe, as in the case of heroin trafficking. In addition to there being a large volume of seizures of cannabis resin in Turkey during 2000, such seizures have increased in several countries in eastern Europe. Total seizures of cannabis resin in the region had been fluctuating widely and were often related to a one-year seizure high in a single country. During 2000, however, relatively large seizures of cannabis resin were recorded by several countries, including the Russian Federation (845 kg), the Republic of Moldova (520 kg), Bulgaria (510 kg), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (430 kg) and Romania (340 kg).

80. The Americas remain a secondary market for cannabis resin. Canada continues to be the only country in that region with significant seizures of cannabis resin: 16 tons in 2000, almost 95 per cent of the total for the region.

81. Global seizures of cannabis resin increased from less than 900 tons during 1998 and 1999 to 920 tons in 2000. Seizures of cannabis resin have fluctuated been 650 and 900 tons over the last decade, with the exception of 1995, when more than 1,000 tons were recorded. Changes in the volume seized in the various regions have remained limited in recent years. Europe continues to account for about 75 per cent of global seizures of cannabis resin; it is followed by Asia, with less than 20 per cent, most of which is seized in south-west Asia. Seizures in Africa, mainly made in northern Africa, account for 5 per cent of global seizures, while the Americas only account for about 2 per cent (see figure 28).

Figure 28
Cannabis resin: seizures,[a] by region, 2000



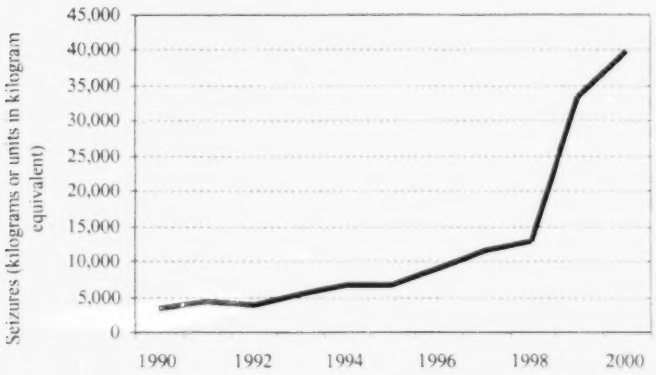
[a] Total: 920 tons.

[b] No data were available for Morocco.

IV. Global and regional trends in illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, up to 2000

82. The illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants continue to take place in three main subregions: North America, western Europe and south-east Asia. While statistics for western Europe and North America have shown some stability or even decreases in recent years, statistics for south-east Asia have continued to show decreases. Global seizures of both stimulants and Ecstasy-type substances have reached unprecedented levels. However, while trends in Ecstasy-type substances continue to rise in most regions, those in respect of stimulants vary from region to region. Global seizures of stimulants, including amphetamine and methamphetamine, amounted to almost 40 tons in 2000, up from 33.4 tons in 1999 and less than 13 tons in previous years (see figure 29).

Figure 29
Stimulants, including amphetamine and methamphetamine: global seizures, 1990-2000



83. The manufacture of synthetic drugs unlike that of plant-based drugs, mostly occurs within the main consumer areas. Trafficking is, therefore, to a large extent limited to a particular region. The exception to this is Ecstasy-type substances, which continue to be manufactured mainly in western Europe, from where illicit markets throughout the world are supplied.

84. The statistics on detection of clandestine laboratories that are presented below do not give an indication of the volume of the drugs manufactured, but rather provide an overview of trends in and locations of illicit drug manufacture rather than an indication of the volume of the drugs manufactured. (Further information on the limitations of laboratory statistics involving clandestine laboratories is given in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.)

A. Methamphetamine

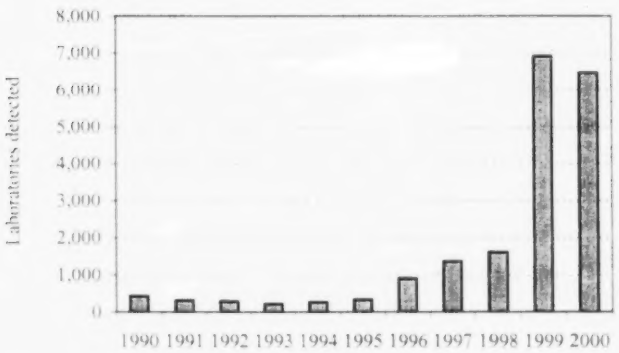
85. Illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in North America continue to relate primarily to methamphetamine. In 2000,

statistics on both illicit manufacture of and trafficking in that drug showed, for the first time in many years, a trend towards levelling off. The consumption of methamphetamine in North America is assumed to have been relatively stable in recent years, though it has remained at a high level.

86. Statistics on the detection of clandestine laboratories manufacturing methamphetamine in North America have shown a sharp increase since 1996. This is particularly the result of developments in the United States, which reported that more than 6,895 such laboratories had been detected in 1999 and a slightly lower number (6,437) in 2000 (though the statistics reported prior to 1999 did not include data from all sources in the United States). Mexico has been reporting the detection of illicit methamphetamine laboratories since 1995. The number of such laboratories detected in Mexico increased from an annual average of less than 10 in previous years to 13 in 1999 and 23 in 2000 (see figure 30).

Figure 30

Detection of laboratories for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in North America, 1990-2000



Note: Statistics for years prior to 1999 do not include all data from the United States of America.

87. The United States reported that, in recent years, the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has been revolutionized in that large-scale laboratories have saturated the illicit market in that country with unprecedented quantities of methamphetamine with a high purity level.

88. Methamphetamine illicitly manufactured in North America continues to supply mainly domestic markets. Seizures of methamphetamine in the subregion mirrored recent rising trends in statistics on laboratory seizures. Seizures of methamphetamine rose from an annual average of 1.5 tons to over 2 tons in 1998 and 3.5 tons in 1999 respectively. In 2000, such seizures in North America declined slightly for the first time in many years, though they remained at a high level (3.4 tons) (see figure 31). The United States continues to account for the bulk of the seizures made in the subregion. A total of 2.7 tons of methamphetamine were seized in the United States in 2000, a quantity similar to that seized in 1999, accounting for 78 per cent of the total for the subregion. In addition, Mexico reported having seized

relatively large quantities of amphetamine-type stimulants in 1999 and 2000; its seizures in 2000 included 640 kg of methamphetamine and 70 kg of amphetamine. Canada seized 17 kg of methamphetamine and 15 kg of other stimulants in 2000. Stimulant seizures in other subregions in the Americas remained limited.

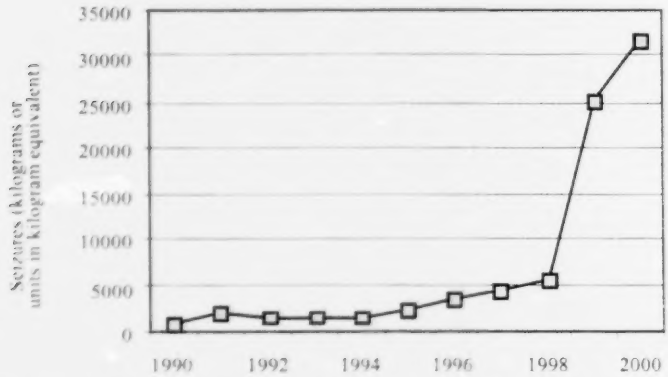
Figure 31
Stimulants, mainly methamphetamine: seizures in North America, 1990-2000

89. Methamphetamine also continues to be manufactured, trafficked and consumed in large quantities in east and south-east Asia. The drug is quickly becoming available throughout the entire subregion. Statistics on clandestine methamphetamine laboratories detected in countries in the subregion continue to be inconsistent. Data received from Interpol indicate that, during 2000, 10 laboratories were seized in Thailand, one was seized in Malaysia and one was seized in the Hong Kong SAR of China.

90. Seizures of stimulants in east and south-east Asia have risen steadily since 1995. A particularly sharp rise was noted in 1999, when the total volume of such seizures increased from the previous level of 5.5 tons to over 25 tons. In 2000, such seizures increased further, reaching an unprecedented level of 31.6 tons (see figure 32). East and south-east Asia remain the only subregion where seizures of stimulants continued to rise significantly in 2000. The largest increase was noted in China, where such seizures rose from 1.6 tons in 1998 to 16 tons in 1999 and 20.9 tons in 2000. China thus accounted for two thirds (66 per cent) of the stimulant seizures in the subregion and more than half (53 per cent) of global seizures of stimulants. Relatively large stimulant seizures in 2000 were also reported by Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and, to a lesser extent, the Hong Kong SAR of China, Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia. The Philippines reported that most of the methamphetamine available in that country is smuggled out of China. Japan reported methamphetamine seizures amounting to over 1 ton in 2000, which was below the peak level of 1999 (1.9 tons) but above the level of previous years. Methamphetamine seizures in Thailand, which have been steadily rising since the mid-1990s, reached a peak of 7.4 tons in 2000. A similar trend was noted in the Philippines, where such seizures rose to over 1 ton in 2000. Methamphetamine seizures amounted to over 800 kg in Myanmar, more than 200 kg in Malaysia and 150 kg in the Hong Kong SAR of China. Indonesia reported having seized 10 kg of

methamphetamine and more than 70 kg of amphetamine in 2000. The level of methamphetamine seizures in the Republic of Korea, however, was lower in 2000 (4.5 kg) than in previous years (30 kg).

Figure 32
Stimulants, mainly methamphetamine: seizures in east and south-east Asia, 1990-2000



91. Japan reported that methamphetamine is smuggled into that country by organized criminal groups based in Japan (the boryokudan) and international drug organizations based in the Hong Kong SAR of China. The most notable trafficking routes lead from China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and women are increasingly being used as couriers.

92. Methamphetamine seizures in other countries in Asia remain limited. India reported having seized a total of 29 kg of methamphetamine in 2000. Some stimulant seizures have been recorded by countries in the Near and Middle East but they seem to refer to amphetamine or other stimulants rather than methamphetamine. In Oceania, New Zealand reported the seizure of 10 kg of methamphetamine during 2000 and the detection of nine clandestine laboratories manufacturing that drug. A total of 380 kg of stimulants were seized in Australia.

93. Methamphetamine continues to be available to a limited extent in Europe, though its availability seems to be increasing. In the past, the only country in Europe with illicit methamphetamine manufacture was the Czech Republic. A total of 28 methamphetamine laboratories were detected there during 2000. However, in 1999, two such laboratories were seized in Slovakia and, in 2000, that country reported having detected 95 laboratories, though the size of those laboratories was unknown and their capacity was presumably small. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has also emerged in the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania). In 2000, Estonia reported having seized five laboratories manufacturing amphetamine, methamphetamine and Ecstasy, and Lithuania reported having detected one methamphetamine laboratory. Methamphetamine manufactured in the Czech Republic and Slovakia is primarily destined for domestic markets, but small quantities of methamphetamine have been seized in some neighbouring countries such as Austria (0.5 kg). The Czech Republic recorded a total of 12.5 kg of methamphetamine seized in 2000 and Slovakia reported having seized 0.3 kg of that substance. Methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants manufactured

in the Baltic States seem to be destined for Scandinavian countries. During 2000, illicit methamphetamine consignments were seized in Finland (1.3 kg), Norway (2.2 kg) and Sweden (2.3 kg). Despite increasing trends in illicit methamphetamine manufacture and trafficking in Europe, the bulk of stimulant seizures made in the region continue to involve amphetamine.

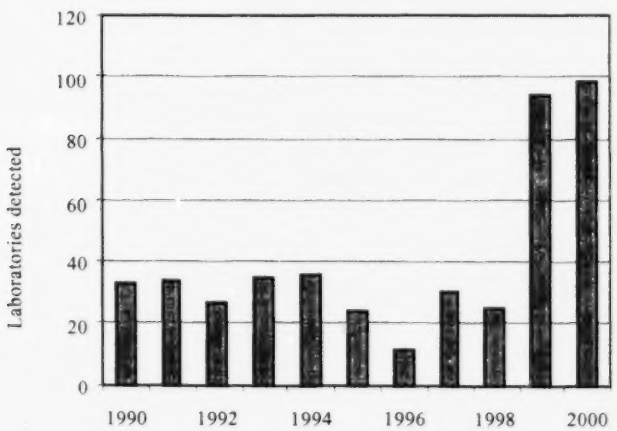
94. In Africa, the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine (referred to as "maxiton forte") continues to be reported in Egypt. However, seizures of that drug, which had been at a high level during the 1980s and early 1990s, have remained at a relatively low level in recent years, amounting to 11 kg in 2000. Stimulant seizures remained limited in 2000 in other countries in Africa except for the United Republic of Tanzania, where reports received from Interpol indicated a seizure total of 1.4 tons. Details on the type of stimulants seized there are not available. Finally, Eritrea reported 6 kg of stimulant seizures during 2000.

B. Amphetamine

95. The illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and consumption of amphetamine continues to be concentrated in Europe. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine takes place in many western and eastern European countries. During 2000, 1 amphetamine laboratory was detected in Belgium, 7 were detected in Germany, 1 was detected in Greece, 3 were detected in Lithuania, 14 were detected in Poland and 8 were detected in the United Kingdom. As mentioned in paragraph 93 above, Estonia reported the seizure of five clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine, methamphetamine and Ecstasy. In addition, reports received from Interpol indicated 1 amphetamine laboratory seized in Bulgaria and 59 in the Russian Federation. In total, the number of such laboratories detected in Europe has increased in recent years, though the manufacturing capacity remains unknown (see figure 33). The increase in the total number of laboratories seized in Europe in 1999 and 2000 was, to a large extent, attributable to the increase in eastern Europe, while western Europe showed stable or even decreasing trends.

Figure 33

Detection of laboratories for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine in Europe, 1990-2000

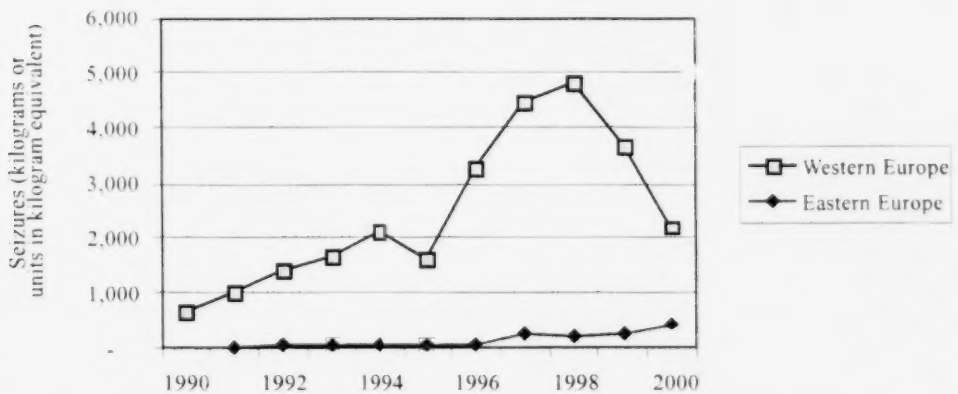


96. Amphetamine manufactured in Europe is mainly destined for illicit markets within the region. Most amphetamine seizures in the region continue to be made in western Europe. In Europe, such seizures fell sharply from 4.7 tons in 1997 and 5 tons in 1998 to 3.8 tons in 1999 and 2.6 tons in 2000 (see figure 34). The decline was noted in most countries in the subregion. The United Kingdom continues to record the largest volume of amphetamine seizures; such seizures decreased steadily from 3.2 tons in 1997 to 900 kg in 2000 (though data for 2000 are still preliminary). The Netherlands has recorded a relatively small volume of amphetamine seizures in recent years, but such seizures decreased in 2000, amounting to 290 kg. A similar trend was noted in Belgium, where such seizures totalled 75 kg in 2000. Amphetamine seizures in Germany also decreased from 360 kg in 1999 to 270 kg in 2000. France has recorded a stable seizure level of 230 kg during the last two years. The Scandinavian countries have recorded a relatively large volume of amphetamine seizures in recent years. Seizures in Sweden followed a decreasing trend from over 200 kg during the mid-1990s to just over 100 kg in 2000. However, an increase in amphetamine seizures was recorded during 2000 in Norway (90 kg) and Finland (80 kg). Decreases in amphetamine seizures mirrored consumption statistics, which have showed a stagnation in recent years. It is possible that amphetamine is, to some extent, being replaced by Ecstasy-type substances, which continue to follow rising trends in many countries in the region.

97. While stimulant seizures in western Europe have been decreasing during the last two reporting years, such seizures in eastern Europe continue to rise though at a lower level (see figure 34). Amphetamine seizures in eastern Europe rose steadily from less than 100 kg during the mid-1990s to over 430 kg in 2000. Countries with the largest volume of seizures of amphetamine included Bulgaria (200 kg), Poland (140 kg), Lithuania (20 kg) and Estonia (15 kg). In addition, some reports were received on methamphetamine seizures in eastern Europe (see paragraph 93 above).

Figure 34

Stimulants, mainly amphetamine: seizures in Europe, by subregion, 1990-2000



98. Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine outside Europe remain at a limited level. The amphetamine that is manufactured in Europe is destined for illicit markets within the country of manufacture or the region. The United States reported the detection of 39 amphetamine laboratories in 2000. Additional reports,

received from Interpol, indicated 26 amphetamine laboratory seizures in Mexico, 22 in Canada and 5 in Malaysia.

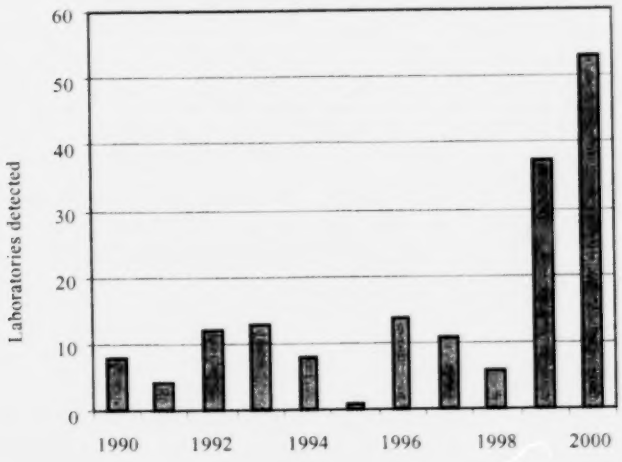
99. Stimulant seizures in other regions remain limited. Some countries in the Near and Middle East and in south-west Asia reported seizures of stimulants including not only amphetamine but also other stimulants. Stimulant seizures of unspecified types were reported in 2000 by Saudi Arabia (95 kg), Jordan (60 kg), Pakistan (20 kg) and the Syrian Arab Republic (10 kg).

C. Ecstasy-type substances

100. Trafficking in and abuse of Ecstasy-type substances have been rising fast in many regions in recent years. Unlike other amphetamine-type stimulants, which remain largely confined to regions where they are produced, Ecstasy-type substances are trafficked more widely. Another element for concern in respect of Ecstasy-type substances is the continued rising trend, whereas amphetamine and methamphetamine have started to decline in several regions.

101. The manufacture of Ecstasy-type substances continues to be concentrated in western Europe, the Netherlands being one of the most important source countries. The Netherlands reported the detection of 34 Ecstasy laboratories during 2000. In addition, Belgium seized eight such laboratories and the United Kingdom seized five. Eastern Europe and in particular the Baltic States seem to have emerged as additional manufacturing areas. During 2000, Estonia reported the detection of five laboratories illicitly manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants, including Ecstasy, and Lithuania reported the seizure of one Ecstasy laboratory (see figure 35).

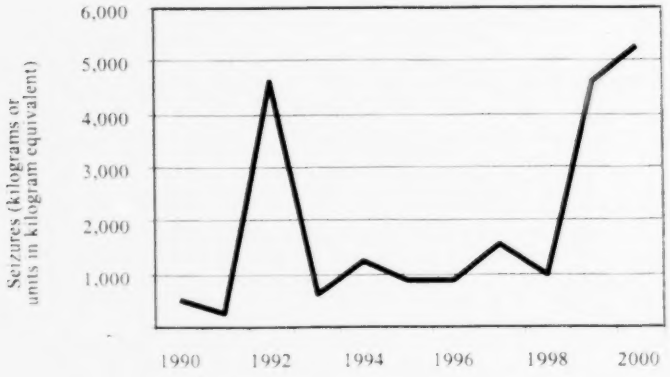
Figure 35
Detection of laboratories for the illicit manufacture of Ecstasy-type substances in Europe, 1990-2000



102. Western Europe continues to manufacture Ecstasy-type substances that are used to supply expanding illicit markets in many parts of the world, including North

America and south-east Asia, in addition to the growing market within the European region. It continues to be difficult to analyse trends in trafficking in such substances, since seizure data for Ecstasy are often included in seizure data for hallucinogens. Nevertheless, the available statistics indicate sharp rising trends during 1999 and 2000, with most seizures of Ecstasy-type substances interceptions being made in North America and western Europe (see figure 36). The Netherlands reported that Ecstasy-type substances had been illicitly exported to countries in Europe, North America and Asia.

Figure 36
Hallucinogens, including Ecstasy-type substances: global seizures, 1990-2000



103. The Netherlands reported a seizure total of 1.1 tons of Ecstasy in 2000, up from 360 kg in 1999. An increase in Ecstasy seizures in 2000 was also reported by Austria (160 kg), France (230 kg), Germany (160 kg), Italy (50 kg) and Spain (90 kg). A slightly smaller but increasing volume of Ecstasy seizures was recorded by Finland (9 kg), Norway (5 kg), Sweden (18 kg) and Switzerland (18 kg). The Scandinavian countries are assumed to be partly supplied by Ecstasy manufactured in the Baltic States. Ecstasy seizures in eastern Europe remain relatively small; the largest seizures were recorded in Poland (13 kg) and Lithuania (5 kg).

104. In North America, the volume of Ecstasy seizures also rose sharply in 2000. Canada and the United States noted an enormous increase in Ecstasy trafficking. Ecstasy seizures, which in both countries had amounted to less than 100 kg annually in previous years, rose in 1999 to 560 kg in Canada and 630 kg in the United States. In 2000, such seizures rose further, reaching almost 1 ton recorded in both Canada and the United States. In the Americas, significant quantities of Ecstasy were also reported to have been seized in 2000 in the Bahamas (63 kg), Brazil (4 kg), Colombia (83 kg), Mexico (32 kg) and the Netherlands Antilles (15 kg). The primary source of Ecstasy available in the Americas is western Europe; however, Ecstasy is also being manufactured in the Americas. In 2000, eight clandestine laboratories manufacturing Ecstasy were detected in Canada and seven were detected in the United States.

105. The Netherlands continues to be the primary source of Ecstasy in the United States. Traffickers of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) based in Belgium and the Netherlands often use other European countries as trans-shipment points for

MDMA consignments destined for the United States. That trafficking pattern was also reported by several European countries, such as Italy and Slovenia, which appear to be used as transit countries for consignments of Ecstasy-type substances originating in the Netherlands and destined for the United States. Reports from the Netherlands confirmed such exports to the United States and indicated that large increases in the availability of Ecstasy are anticipated for the illicit markets in the United States.

106. Prices of Ecstasy-type substances are on the decrease in the United States, indicating a widening profit margin. The wholesale price of MDMA ranges from about US$ 2.00 to US$ 11.50 per dosage unit, with the retail price ranging from $20 to $30 per dosage unit.

107. Trafficking in Ecstasy-type substances is also increasing in east and south-east Asia. Though the quantities intercepted remain lower than in other regions, an increasing number of countries recorded Ecstasy seizures in 1999 and 2000. Total seizures of Ecstasy-type substances in east and south-east Asia have increased steadily since 1996, reaching almost 400 kg in 2000, one half of which was seized in China. Other countries in the region that reported seizures of Ecstasy-type substances in 2000 included Indonesia (38 kg), Japan (8 kg), Malaysia (5 kg), Singapore (1 kg) and Thailand (18 kg). In the Near and Middle East, a total of 27 kg was reported to have been seized by Israel. Finally, Ecstasy is also being trafficked in Africa; a relatively large seizure (30 kg) of Ecstasy was made in South Africa in 2000.

V. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

108. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2001: the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Panama City, from 2 to 5 October 2001; the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, was held in Sydney, Australia, from 15 to 18 October 2001; the Thirty-sixth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was held in Abu Dhabi, from 4 to 7 November 2001; and the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, was held in Nairobi, from 26 to 29 November 2001.

109. Following a review of salient drug trafficking trends and regional and subregional cooperation, each meeting addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority concern to its region. Consideration of those issues was facilitated by the discussions that took place during the informal meetings of working groups established for that purpose. The Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, considered the following issues: (a) combating illicit drugs in the region: what measures are most effective, operational law enforcement activities, training of law enforcement personnel, intelligence coordination and analysis, demand reduction and prevention, including the role of education and the media; (b) challenges for the new millennium: trends in illicit drug trafficking, particularly cocaine production and trafficking, the increasing threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, consequences of the opium ban in Afghanistan and

responses to the threats posed by cyber crime; (c) funding of national drug control strategies and the role of international financial institutions in supporting the cost borne by Governments: effective ways to ensure coordination between agencies, and use of assets seized from traffickers to support national drug control strategies. The Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, examined the following topics: (a) illicit traffic in and abuse of heroin; (b) control of stimulants and their precursors; (c) cooperation in the exchange of criminal intelligence on illicit drug traffic; and (d) illicit drug traffic by sea. The thirty-sixth session of the Subcommission examined the following topics: (a) countering money-laundering; (b) controlled delivery (encouraged use of among countries of the region); (c) precursor control; and (d) emerging trends in illicit traffic, including reference to (i) trafficking by rail, (ii) trafficking by internal concealment and (iii) profiling of trafficking groups in the region. The Subcommission also recommended the approval by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, considered the following issues: (a) the use of couriers to traffic illicit drugs; (b) the use of commercial cargo containers to traffic illicit drugs; (c) national drug investigative capacities and regional cooperation in support of drug law enforcement; and (d) control of stimulants and precursor control.

110. The recommendations adopted by the subsidiary bodies are to be implemented at the national level by the law enforcement agencies attending the meetings. It is the practice of the subsidiary bodies to review the implementation of the recommendations on a biennial basis, with the exception of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, which is convened on a triennial basis.

111. The recommendations of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies are contained in the reports of those meetings (UNDCP/HONLAC/2001/4, UNDCP/HONLAP/2001/5, UNDCP/SUBCOM/2001/5 and UNDCP/HONLAF/2001/4). The salient points of those recommendations are summarized below for the consideration of the Commission.

A. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

1. Countering money-laundering

112. Governments should work at all levels to remove the obstacles that impede the investigation of money-laundering offences and to promote the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, the banking and commercial sectors, to increase cooperation in the investigation of offences and the successful prosecution of offenders. Governments are called upon to make use of law enforcement training facilities, such as the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) in Ankara, to improve investigative techniques and enhance the professional skills and competence of those engaged in countering money-laundering.

2. Controlled delivery

113. Member States, through a working group and with the support of UNDCP, should establish operational guidelines for controlled delivery operations. Member States are encouraged to conclude agreements covering essential elements for undertaking successful controlled delivery operations and to identify and distribute contact details of national focal points for controlled delivery.

3. Precursor control

114. Governments should establish units tasked with the responsibility to undertake the verification and inspection of precursors and should ensure that contacts of focal points of the ministries responsible for pre-export notifications are well disseminated and that responsible units are well staffed and resourced.

4. Emerging trends in the illicit drug traffic, including reference to (a) drug trafficking by rail, (b) drug trafficking by internal concealment and (c) profiling of drug trafficking groups in the various regions

115. Governments should ensure that their drug control agencies are well trained in the skills of targeting and profiling to identify persons of interest as possible drug couriers, and make use of regional information exchange centres in order to share information on the activities of drug trafficking groups and the modi operandi employed by drug smugglers.

5. Combating illicit drugs in the various regions: what measures are most effective, operational law enforcement activities, training of law enforcement personnel, intelligence coordination and analysis, demand reduction and prevention, including the role of education and the media

116. To disseminate information more effectively and enhance the speed of operational information exchange, Governments should establish national focal points for the coordination of information and intelligence. To further strengthen cross-border and regional cooperation, additional operational meetings should be convened at the regional level. Governments should examine existing laws with a view to promoting a consistent and compatible approach to the implementation of legislation in their respective regions, particularly with regard to money-laundering and precursor control. Governments should make use of the media as a useful instrument to support drug demand reduction initiatives.

6. Challenges for the new millennium: trends in illicit drug trafficking, particularly cocaine production and trafficking, the increasing threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, consequences of the opium ban in Afghanistan and responses to the threats posed by cyber crime

117. In view of the reduction of drug couriers travelling by air, Governments should strengthen control on their land borders and seaports. Stronger links among intelligence agencies should be developed in view of the potential increase in trafficking in cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants between Europe and Latin America. Countries should adopt appropriate legislation covering issues such as the criminal use of new communication technologies and should strengthen liaison with the telecommunications industry to prevent criminal use of the Internet and

facilitate the provision of information and evidence to law enforcement authorities. UNDCP should consider the creation of a centre for monitoring the international criminal implications of the abuse of new technologies.

7. Funding of national drug control strategies and the role of international financial institutions in supporting the cost borne by Governments: effective ways to ensure coordination between agencies, and use of assets seized from drug traffickers to support national drug control strategies

118. International bodies are called upon to earmark a higher percentage of funding for the training of front-line, operational law enforcement staff and the provision of equipment. To oversee all aspects of national drug control efforts, each Government that has not yet done so should establish a national coordination unit that would also be made responsible for managing the allocation of confiscated assets. The various law enforcement regional bodies should work together to provide an integrated, coordinated and effective system of information exchange, thereby avoiding duplication of effort and wasting of resources. Governments should support alternative development strategies by promoting the opening of new markets at the international level for products emanating from such programmes, as a way of supporting the campaign against illicit drug production and trafficking.

8. Illicit traffic in and abuse of heroin

119. Governments should develop within their law enforcement agencies the specialist investigative skills, supported by legislation and agency powers, to undertake successful investigations targeting the major crime figures who mastermind and finance drug trafficking. Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies are equipped, through supportive legislation and agency empowerment, to effectively investigate and confiscate financial proceeds accrued by those who engage in drug trafficking.

9. Control of stimulants and their precursors

120. Governments should take measures to prevent the trafficking in and abuse, especially among young people, of stimulants and other new substances not yet under international control, and should consider placing under national control new drugs of abuse such as ketamine. Governments should each appoint a national focal point for the coordination of operational activities and develop the capacity for signature testing of stimulants and essential precursors so that their origin can be established and investigations can be pursued.

121. Governments should implement the provisions of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[5] in order to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals, inter alia, by raising awareness among their control agencies, and should provide training in the identification of precursor chemicals, ensure that export control regulations are in place and seek to engage the chemical industry in voluntarily supporting such measures. Governments should make use of the coordinating and monitoring role of the International Narcotics Control Board and report attempts at chemical diversion and suspicious consignments to the Board. UNDCP should develop a training programme to meet the needs of countries, covering model legislation and national control strategies, the raising of awareness among law enforcement agencies about

chemical control, the identification of precursor chemicals, designer drugs and clandestine laboratories.

10. Cooperation in the exchange of criminal intelligence on the illicit drug traffic

122. Governments should each designate a central point for the exchange of information and update, on a regular basis, the contact details of that central point. States that have not done so should become parties to the relevant international drug control treaties, in order to strengthen their national response to combating drug trafficking and cross-border drug-related crime. Governments, with the support of UNDCP, should consider developing best practice guidelines for the sharing of intelligence and joint operations, as well as an inventory of training needs with a view to developing a compatible standard of competency to facilitate cooperation in joint operations.

11. Illicit drug traffic by sea

123. States should harmonize their legislation in line with article 177 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea[6] and article 17 of the 1988 Convention and should enhance their national capacity for collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence, including their technical capacity for surveillance and search of vessels involved in drug trafficking.

12. Use of couriers for drug trafficking

124. Governments should adopt strategies to identify and prosecute those who organize drug trafficking by courier, by, for example, establishing national intelligence units to collate, match and analyse information on drug trafficking and courier-related operations. Governments should ensure that adequate resources and training, such as in the application of risk assessment strategies and the associated profiling of suspected persons, methods of transport, routes and concealment methods, are provided to law enforcement agencies. Governments should adopt measures to undertake controlled delivery operations.

13. Use of commercial cargo containers for drug trafficking

125. Governments should adopt an approach involving a multi-agency task force in identifying potential consignments of illicit drugs concealed within freight containers. Governments should apply effective risk assessment strategies and ensure that their law enforcement agencies have access to commercial information and data on suspected companies and persons of interest.

14. National drug investigative capacities and regional cooperation in support of drug law enforcement

126. Governments should enact or review existing national legislation, in order to facilitate the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies. Governments should take an active role in encouraging their different law enforcement agencies to enter into agreements on mutual support and cooperation by signing inter-agency agreements or memoranda of understanding.

B. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

127. At its thirty-sixth session, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2001/17 of 24 July 2001 and previous relevant resolutions,

Emphasizing that the need to balance the global licit supply of opiates against the legitimate demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes is central to the international strategy and policy of drug control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation with the traditional supplier countries in drug control to ensure universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[7]

Considering that a balance between consumption and production of opiate raw materials has been achieved as a result of efforts made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, together with other producer countries,

Recognizing that application of technical methods of morphine production from unlanced poppy capsules would contribute to the control and prevention from diversion of narcotic drugs to illicit channels,

Noting the importance of opiates in pain relief therapy as advocated by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* all Governments to continue to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes, the achievement of which would be facilitated by maintaining, insofar as their constitutional and legal systems permit, support to the traditional and legal supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;

2. *Urges* Governments of all producer countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[7] to take effective measures to prevent illicit production, or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels, especially when increasing licit production, and therefore to adopt the technical method of production of morphine from unlanced poppy capsules;

3. *Urges* consumer countries to assess their licit needs for opiate raw materials realistically and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board in order to ensure easy supply, and also urges the producer countries

concerned and the Board to increase their efforts to monitor the available supply and to ensure sufficient stocks of licit opiate raw materials;

4. *Requests* the Board to continue its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions in full compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961;

5. *Commends* the Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and, in particular:

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the exportation of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In inviting the Governments concerned to ensure that opiates imported into their countries for medical and scientific use do not originate in countries that transform seized and confiscated drugs into licit opiates;

(c) In arranging informal meetings, during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the main States that import and produce opiate raw materials;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

Notes

[1] United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Afghanistan: *Annual Opium Poppy Survey* (Islamabad, 2001).

[2] "The drug situation in the Union of Myanmar: a compilation of UN data and sources", 21 February 2001: http://www.undcp.org/myanmar/report_2001-02-21_1.html

[3] United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *Lao People's Democratic Republic: Annual Opium Poppy Survey* (Vienna, 2001).

[4] Thailand, Office of the Narcotics Control Board, "Opium cultivation and eradication report for Thailand", 2001.

[5] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[6] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

United Nations E/CN.7/2002/5

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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Forty-fifth session
Vienna, 11-15 March 2002
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Illicit drug traffic and supply

International assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs

Report of the Executive Director

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* E/CN.7/2002/1.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2001/16, of 24 July 2001 the Economic and Social Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to prepare for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs a report on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs. The present report contains a regional breakdown of the activities undertaken by UNDCP to provide such support. The UNDCP response follows the strategy adopted to support transit States through programmes that offer assistance in upgrading technical skills to meet enforcement needs; in strengthening, capabilities in such areas as data collection in support of intelligence-led policing; in the provision of equipment to frontline operations; and in interventions designed to build and support cross-border and regional cooperation, as well as self-sustaining programmes of instruction that provide enforcement agencies with training in best operating practices. Future projects will benefit from the new UNDCP initiative in computer-based training that could make possible, in a cost-effective and efficient manner, the training of large numbers of personnel in best-practice techniques.

II. Eastern and central Europe

2. UNDCP has delivered two phases of the project entitled "Strengthening control capacities of the Russian Federal Border Service at the Afghan-Tajik border" (with funding of 1.78 million United States dollars ($). Under the project, supplies of special and general-purpose equipment were delivered to the Russian border guards stationed along the most vulnerable sections of the Afghan-Tajik border, enabling them to conduct satellite mapping of drug depots and to locate laboratories and drug-trafficking routes. During the implementation of the project, units of the Russian Federal Border Service in Tajikistan seized 8.4 tons of drugs, including more than 3.1 tons of heroin, representing a 600 per cent increase from the levels reached during the previous biennium. The Federal Board Service has on various occasions officially reported how the project has been instrumental in significantly increasing the volume of seizures on the Afghan-Tajik border.

3. To further enhance the drug interdiction capacity of Russian law enforcement and to create a second tier of the security belt around Afghanistan, UNDCP has developed a pipeline project entitled "Strengthening of inter-agency drug enforcement capacities in the regions adjacent to the Russian/Kazakh border" (with funding of $5 million). The main objective of the project is to create a joint inter-agency task force in 12 regions along the Russian-Kazakh border. It is planned to equip the units and train their staff according to international standards.

4. Health professionals from Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation improved their skills under the project "Training for drug abuse treatment providers", implemented by the *Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta*, an Italian non-governmental organization. The project aims at building a permanent drug treatment capacity in the three beneficiary countries to provide the services needed for adolescents and young adults of both sexes, as well as for older, primarily male, drug abusers.

5. UNDCP launched a multisectoral study in the north-west of the Russian Federation to assess drug abuse patterns and trends, with the emphasis on youth and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Activities were expected to begin during the last quarter of 2001.

6. In collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a regional preparatory project on the diversification of services for drug abusers in Belarus, the Republic ofMoldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine was drawn up. Implementation was expected to start during the last quarter of 2001. UNDCP was also awarded a $150,000 grant under the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund for its project on demand reduction and HIV prevention among intravenous drug users in the Moscow oblast.

7. In cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNDCP has implemented in Belarus and the Russian Federation the project entitled "Global Initiative on primary prevention of substance abuse among young people". The aim of the project is to support a group of local organizations in each country to develop and implement substance abuse prevention programmes at the community level, through the provision of training, technical advice, contacts and funds.

Under the project, UNDCP conducted a series of training seminars in both countries to assist the local partners in developing prevention programmes and applying for grants. In total, 34 non-governmental organizations were provided with grants and have been implementing their programmes in schools, colleges, youth organizations and juvenile correctional establishments.

III. Turkey

8. In Turkey, the first phase of a UNDCP project to support the establishment of the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime was launched in June 2000. During the first phase, which was completed in June 2001, the Academy became fully operational; several national and regional drug law enforcement training courses were delivered; assessments of training needs were carried out in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; and curricular for training courses were developed.

IV. South Asia

9. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, technical assistance delivered through the ongoing comprehensive drug control programme reached $1.7 million in 2001. That included the delivery of both equipment and training to national drug control institutions working in the areas of supply and demand reduction and legislative development. In order to cope with the upward trend in heroin abuse, UNDCP assistance focused in particular on strengthening the treatment and rehabilitation component of the programme. Its assistance was designed to enhance the skills of human resources and to develop a pilot Internet-assisted network providing data on the admission of drug abusers to treatment centres. Delivery of equipment to the Iranian Police was coupled with stronger emphasis on regional cooperation, exemplified by the third regional meeting of drug liaison officers and the provision, for the first time, of regional training for Armenian, Georgian and Iranian police officers. Drug awareness campaigns at cultural and sports events were implemented in partnership with universities, non-governmental organizations and youth associations.

10. In 2001, UNDCP continued the second full year of a $5.25 million project to assist drug law enforcement in Pakistan. The project provides broad-based assistance to improve the capacity of the country to respond to drug trafficking. Because of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 a number of activities, including the midterm evaluation of the project, had to be rescheduled. However, the estimated delivery rate of project implementation for 2001 was expected to exceed 85 per cent. Up to November 2001, initial results showed that Pakistan had seized over 6 tons of heroin, 4.6 tons of opium and 53 tons of cannabis. The final year-end results will be higher, since data have to be collated from a number of different agencies in different geographical locations. Seizures tend to show an increased flow of heroin rather than opium through Pakistan. The year also saw the prosecution and conviction of two high-profile drug traffickers, one a former leading politician, the other a major businessman and newspaper owner.

11. Substantial emphasis has been placed on training, as there are 11 different agencies with narcotic interdiction mandates. Within the Anti-Narcotics Law Enforcement School, UNDCP conducted three basic drug law enforcement courses with a total of 70 students. An advanced course, as well as one course for financial investigators, was held with trainers from the Australian Federal Police for 27 students from different agencies. Within the country, 30 courses for 600 students were held by UNDCP, in cooperation with a number of different agencies. Training was also provided to the three drug-testing laboratories that have been upgraded to international standards. A seminar was held for all heads of laboratories and enforcement agencies to discuss the national situation and appropriate responses.

12. The initial three drug-testing laboratories were substantially upgraded by UNDCP to enable them to carry out full quantative and qualitative analysis. Equipment for further laboratories has been ordered and building work started to house the new equipment. In the laboratories assisted to date, substantial rebuilding had to take place to prepare the premises for the installation of the new equipment.

13. The introduction of comprehensive collection, analysis and dissemination intelligence has begun with the purchase of the necessary hardware to computerize intelligence data and link all the regional offices of the

Anti-Narcotics Force. The systems have been networked locally and will be made part of a wide area network in 2002. A software programme for the collection of intelligence has been commissioned and will be written to suit the needs of the agencies concerned. A period of training will follow for users in all locations. UNDCP is supporting the Government of Pakistan in countering money laundering, in particular through the adoption of legislation and practical measures.

14. Communication equipment for a number of agencies has been assessed and ordered. To improve the ability of those agencies, especially those operating in the key western border areas, to carry out patrolling and respond to information in a timely fashion, they continue to be supplied with vehicles. To counter the use of the international mail as a means of trafficking, following a threat and needs assessment, a Rapiscan Scanner has been installed at the main international letter and small parcel office in Karachi. Eight staff members have been fully trained in its use and the manual translated into Urdu. The Anti-Narcotics Force has determined that the lack of the use of drug detection dogs is potentially hindering interdiction at post offices and airports. To assess the impact, therefore, two dogs have been procured by the project, and are being trained by the military in Pakistan for use by the Anti-Narcotics Force.

15. One of the key components of the earlier border interdiction project was the enhancement of regional cooperation between Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, two countries used as important trafficking routes for opiates originating in Afghanistan. Such cooperation has continued, with UNDCP supporting the convening of various working groups. At government level, the secretaries of State responsible for drug control have met with heads of drug law enforcement agencies to discuss the current situation and the appropriate national response. Senior law enforcement officers have also met to discuss operational modalities and trends. During 2001, it has been possible to extend the scope of such meetings to include representatives of agencies involved in maritime interdiction.

16. One of the casualties of the September 2001 terrorist attacks was an assessment of the container traffic through the ports and dry ports of Pakistan and the adoption of remedial action. It had been hoped that following the assessment, work could have begun on the formation and training of a container profiling unit, to provide intelligence to operational teams. That has now been postponed until 2002. Another postponed activity has been the finalization of an assessment leading to a programme of possible assistance for the tribal areas of Pakistan. The recent war in Afghanistan has shown the volatility and limited government control of those areas and their fiercely ethnic traditions, which amplify the need for a careful programme that addresses the issue of trafficking, but that is acceptable to and involves the local people.

17. The assistance provided has helped a number of agencies involved in stemming the flow of illicit drugs to increase their efficiency and capacity. To some extent, that will have an impact on other areas of concern to the international community, since those agencies also have responsibilities that involve countering terrorism and the illegal flow of people and money. Many of the skills required and taught for countering illicit trafficking apply equally to other criminal activities.

18. In India, two large-scale community-wide drug demand reduction projects initiated in 1999 are being implemented. The aim of the two projects is to reduce and prevent drug abuse among the general population and high-risk groups. The projects, entitled "Community-wide demand reduction in India" and "Community-wide demand reduction in the north-eastern States of India", supplement the programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment designed to support non-governmental organizations in carrying out demand reduction activities. The long-term objective is to reduce drug abuse among the general population, in particular among high-risk groups and drug addicts. The projects also have the following aims: to assist the Government in establishing an infrastructure making it possible to initiate, support and sustain demand reduction activities on a nationwide scale; and to launch new activities, with the help of non-governmental organizations serving regional resource training centres and of the National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention, established with technical support from UNDCP.

V. Central Asia

19. In central Asia, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat has provided multi-

sectoral assistance in capacity-building and drug control over a number of years, covering areas such as policy and strategy development, institution-building, strengthening of control measures and reduction of illicit supply of and demand for drugs. The objective has been to facilitate subregional and interregional cooperation in addressing the drug problem faced by all central Asian States. Currently, the Office is executing 10 regional and country projects in central Asia. Regional cooperation is being enhanced within the framework of the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation in central Asia, signed in Tashkent on 4 May 1996. The third annual meeting to review the memorandum of understanding, held in Dushanbe in September 2001, endorsed the accession of Azerbaijan to the memorandum of understanding, thus further expanding the scope of subregional cooperation in drug control.

20. The Office drew up the regional programme entitled "Strengthening drug control and crime prevention capacities in the central Asian States" for the period from 2002 to 2005. The aim of the regional programme is to strengthen the capacities of Central Asian States to take effective action at national and regional levels by reducing drug trafficking, drug abuse and organized crime. The regional programme was motivated by the following factors: the dramatic increase in drug trafficking across central Asia, especially in opiates from neighbouring Afghanistan destined for the Russian Federation, other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, western Europe and, to some extent, the United States of America; the escalating abuse of drugs in central Asia; and the lack of basic resources to establish effective drug control mechanisms and structures in the region. The programme will be implemented through a series of interrelated regional and national projects designed to enhance national capacities in drug control and crime prevention. The objectives also include strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure the broadest possible participation of multilateral and bilateral agencies, civil society etc. in the planning and implementation of projects.

21. In view of the increasing threat posed to central Asia by organized crime, illicit drugs and terrorism, the Office convened, jointly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism, in Bishkek on 13 and 14 December 2001. The Conference adopted a declaration and a plan of action that emphasized the vulnerability of the central Asian States and the need for international assistance.

VI. Latin America and the Caribbean

22. Brazil is a major gateway to world markets for illicit drugs produced in the Andean region, especially cocaine. The extensive borders of Brazil with the drug-producing countries, as well as its vast river, air and road infrastructure systems, offer numerous smuggling routes for drug trafficking. Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela face similar problems. Furthermore, the Caribbean States, Mexico and the Central American States are important transit zones for illicit drugs produced in South America on their way to markets, mainly in the United States, Canada and Europe. Illicit drugs are available for local consumption at relatively low price levels. The available data indicate that the abuse of cocaine, crack cocaine, inhalants and amphetamine-type stimulants have markedly increased in recent years, with youth starting to abuse illicit drugs at ever younger ages. Drug-related violence, corruption and money-laundering are also a major concern in the region. UNDCP continued to support the Latin American and Caribbean States most affected by the transit of drugs in their efforts to improve control structures and law enforcement capacity, including cross-border cooperation, and in addressing drug abuse problems. In Ecuador, UNDCP supports drug law enforcement and administration of justice, primarily through training. In that context, cross-border cooperation between Colombia and Ecuador is being strengthened.

23. UNDCP assisted the Government of Brazil in the implementation of effective policies in drug law enforcement and drug abuse prevention. The $23 million law enforcement programme of Brazil aims at strengthening the national security forces, including national security information system and a precursor control system. The modernization of the National Police Academy and the development and implementation of a State police training programme contribute to professional capacity-building. Capacities for drug control will be improved through coordination and the exchange of information within Brazil and with

neighbouring countries. Most of the activities under the law enforcement programme were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2001, but because of institutional reforms and the adoption of the national security plan, the programme was revised and extended through 2003.

24. UNDCP support to drug abuse prevention in Brazil has focused on a nation wide 33 million HIV/AIDS prevention programme designed to reduce the incidence of, and the harm caused by, HIV infection among vulnerable populations, with special attention given to intravenous drug users. Building on the success of a UNDCP-sponsored model project with the Federation of Private Companies in Rio Grande do Sul, a new project on prevention at the workplace will be implemented with the Government-owned electricity company Eletronorte. The two-year project will be entirely funded by the company and implemented by 2003. UNDCP will launch a new project in support of the National Sanitary Surveillance Agency to strengthen national capacities for the control and inspection of illicit drugs.

25. At the Caribbean subregional level, UNDCP support for action against illicit drug trafficking has included assistance to the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council in establishing a regional clearance system for the control of the movement of vessels and small aircraft. Expert advice and assistance has been provided to 14 Caribbean States in the drafting of new or revised precursor control legislation. In the Dominican Republic, UNDCP continued to provide judicial training and direct support in the investigation and prosecution of drug-trafficking, money-laundering and corruption cases. While UNDCP support to forensic services was completed for the Caribbean in 2001, a subregional forensic laboratory programme providing equipment and training to improve the analysis of drugs and precursors is ongoing in Mexico and Central America.

26. National drug prevention programmes were supported in various Caribbean States in the past, and most recently in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. UNDCP also provides advice and training in data collection and research methodologies in support of the regional Caribbean Drug Information Network In the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, UNDCP will work with other United Nations bodies in supporting government efforts to prevent drug abuse among youth and violence associated with drug trafficking in poor neighbourhoods of selected major cities. With support from UNAIDS, UNDCP also plans to work with youth organizations on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention in selected Caribbean States.

27. In Central America, UNDCP provides technical advice and training to Governments and non-governmental organizations to improve the planning and implementation of drug abuse prevention programmes, building on existing expertise and experience within the region. In Mexico, UNDCP will co-sponsor the development of an addiction studies programme at the University of Veracruz, and contribute to the improvement of treatment and rehabilitation services provided in Chiapas.

VII. East Asia and the Pacific

28. The cultivation of opium poppy and abuse of opium are traditional practices in the highland border areas of China, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, where a large percentage of the world supply of illicit opiates is produced in remote areas within the subregion. Heroin-producing laboratories are located close to the main opium-producing areas, and precursor chemicals, necessary for the conversion of opium into heroin, are transported through the surrounding countries to the main production areas located in Myanmar. Within the framework of the subregional action plan, agreed upon in the context of the memorandum of understanding signed in 1993 by Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNDCP, UNDCP has continued to play a coordinating role in drug control activities at the subregional level. Focusing on broad-based and long-term programmes, it has provided assistance in the formulation and implementation of subregional and national projects in drug control, in close cooperation with other United Nations bodies, national and international institutions and non-governmental organizations.

29. Through a subregional action plan on drug control, UNDCP has developed a professional computer-based training programme for the six States of the region—Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam—that have signed the memorandum of

understanding on mutual cooperation and support in drug law enforcement. The interactive computer-based learning programme is delivered in the language of each of the States concerned. As a result, high-quality, self-sustaining programmes of training in frontline interdiction methodologies and investigative techniques have been made available to the law enforcement agencies of the six States, directly enhancing their enforcement capabilities against the traffic and transit of illicit drugs in their territories.

30. During the period from 1996 to 2000, UNDCP assisted the Government of Viet Nam in implementing its first drug control master plan and in the successful completion of six projects at a total cost of $6.7 million. UNDCP is currently assisting the Government in building a new phase of cooperation within the framework of a new master plan that will reflect the balanced approach adopted by UNDCP in dealing with the drug control problems encountered in the country.

31. The second phase of a project initiated by UNDCP to counter the potential diversion of precursor chemicals in south and south-west Asia started in January 2000. The projects will run for a new four-year cycle, with a special focus on assisting Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in law enforcement investigations and the sharing of information. A second precursor control project focused on south-east Asia started its second phase in late 2001, extending its activities to Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

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Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session

Follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

In its resolution 56/124 of 19 December 2001, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-fifth session on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development. In its resolution 44/11 entitled "International cooperation on the elimination of illicit drug crops and on alternative development", the Commission called for measures to eliminate illicit drug crops and drew attention to the special importance of international cooperation in alternative development to support national efforts to eliminate such crops. The Commission requested the Executive Director to report on the implementation of its resolution at its forty-fifth session. The present report has been prepared in compliance with those requests.

* E/CN.7/2002/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, adopted the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development. The Action Plan focused on, inter alia: the need for a balanced approach to confront high levels of illicit cultivation; the strengthening of international cooperation for alternative development; the improvement of innovative approaches to alternative development; the enhancement of monitoring, evaluation and information-sharing; and the need for law enforcement in controlling illicit crops. It also urged the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the international community to assist States in countering illicit drug production by providing adequate financial and technical assistance for alternative development, with the aim of reducing and eventually eliminating illicit drug crops. UNDCP was also called upon to continue to play a catalytic role in assisting Governments in approaching international financial institutions for financing and in supporting their alternative development programmes and projects. In its resolution 56/124 of 19 December 2001, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNDCP to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-fifth session on the follow-up to the Action Plan. The present report is submitted to the Commission in response to that request.

2. The Commission, in its resolution 44/11 entitled "International cooperation on the elimination of illicit drug crops and on alternative development", called on Member States, multilateral financial institutions and regional development banks, UNDCP and the international community, including regional organizations, to take specific action in supporting the implementation of the Action Plan. The Commission requested the Executive Director to report to it at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is also submitted to the Commission in compliance with that request.

3. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the consolidated first biennial report of the Executive Director on action taken by Governments to implement the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2001/16), which the Commission considered at its reconvened forty-fourth session in December 2001. That report contains an assessment of progress made by Governments in implementing the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development.

II. Latin America and the Caribbean

4. To implement the Action Plan, UNDCP continued to support Governments affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops by delivering alternative development programmes in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru within the framework of the three business plans for the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development. During the biennium 2000-2001, UNDCP implemented 14 alternative development projects totalling 51 million United States dollars ($), with an additional $20 million being delivered to support such projects. UNDCP allocations for alternative development in each of the three States accounted for 75 per cent of the total.

5. The UNDCP strategy is to support the rapid reduction of illicit coca cultivation in Bolivia through the Chapare agroforestry programme, within the framework of the business plan for Bolivia. In the Chapare region, the project has provided assistance to 1,560 families organized in 71 producers' associations and 16 women's groups. In addition, agroforestry systems have been established over an area of 120 hectares, and environmentally compatible forest management plans now cover over 5,700 hectares. Furthermore, a Forestry Technical Centre has been established with project support and has been increasingly assuming planning and coordination functions with regard to the management of forest resources. In late 2000, project activities were expanded to the Yungas region of La Paz. A project for the Yungas, started in mid-2001, is assisting in the establishment of a monitoring system for land use, including coca cultivation in the region. As a complement to agroforestry, a vocational training programme was initiated in the Chapare in late 2000. The programme aimed at providing training to 8,500 people between the ages of 15 and 34, creating 160 microenterprises. During a first project phase,

agreements have been signed with various Bolivian training organizations that provided specialized vocational courses for more than 2,600 people. In cooperation with the private sector, the integration of the trainees into the labour market was promoted. At the national level, UNDCP supported the process of integrating coordinated alternative development planning into the national planning system at the national, regional and municipal levels.

6. Under the business plan for Colombia, support was provided to the National Alternative Development Plan (PLANTE) to develop and implement productive projects jointly with the municipalities and organizations of farmers in seven departments. Eight organizations of farmers with more than 3,000 associated families were supported in production and marketing. Each organization has signed an agreement with farmers to eliminate illicit crops, and in return to support agricultural and livestock activities. Marketing agreements were negotiated with the private sector. Also, in the departments of Meta and Caquetá, more than 60 families have received cattle through a revolving fund. In that area, UNDCP also supports the World Health Organization (WHO) with the provision of basic health services and safe drinking water and of equipment to rural pharmacies. A new project has started in the departments of Caquetá and Nariño aimed at the promotion of dual-purpose cattle-breeding. Five hundred families will receive cattle as a loan in kind, and 1,000 families will receive support in agroforestry systems and food crops. UNDCP also continued its support to Colombia in establishing a monitoring system for illicit crops that enables the identification and quantification of illicit coca and opium poppy cultivation. The relevant figures for the year 2000 have already been published.

7. Under the business plan for Peru, alternative development has covered 5 of the 11 major coca-growing areas in Peru, namely, the valleys of Apurimac, Lower Huallaga, Pichis-Palcazú, Aguaytia and Inambari-Tambopata. UNDCP technically and financially supported the production and marketing of traditional crops, including coffee and cacao, as well as the building up of capital-intensive agro-industrial activities, such as the production of palm oil and palm heart. Furthermore, improved cattle-breeding was supported. In the remote areas, UNDCP support was crucial for rural infrastructure, especially feeder roads to markets. Assistance was delivered through 14 organizations of farmers reaching 7,760 families. Additional alternative development products have been sold to specialized markets in Europe and the United States of America. In view of the prevailing rural poverty in the coca-growing areas, social issues have been increasingly addressed and efforts have continued to ensure a higher participation of women in the various project activities and organizations.

III. South-east Asia and the Pacific

8. UNDCP provided support for alternative development to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. In addition, technical assistance was provided in conducting opium-poppy ground surveys in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and in Myanmar. UNDCP also continued to facilitate the sharing of good practices and discussion of common problems in the field of alternative development. A major report and book were published highlighting lessons learned in reducing opium poppy cultivation in Thailand during the period from 1970 to 2000, and a new interactive web site on alternative development in East Asia was launched by the regional centre in Bangkok in late 2001.

9. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is fully committed to its national strategy for the elimination of opium poppy. The original target year for the elimination of opium poppy cultivation, 2006, was advanced to 2005. Equally important, drug control is fully integrated with broader poverty alleviation programmes in the country. In that context, UNDCP works closely with other international organizations within the United Nations system and with the Asian Development Bank, as well as with several bilateral donors. In support of the opium elimination strategy, the joint government-UNDCP Programme Facilitation Unit, which started working in late 2000, has formulated detailed proposals for a number of programme modules. The package of proposals will be presented to potential donors during a joint visit to several European capitals, scheduled for early 2002.

10. According to the national opium survey for 2001, 17,255 hectares are under opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with a reduction of 36 per cent since 1998. Potential production is estimated at 134 tons. Alternative

development has proven to be a feasible option, producing concrete results. In fact, most of the reduction in the area of opium poppy cultivation was achieved in those provinces in which alternative development activities exist. UNDCP-supported alternative development projects are under way in the following opium-poppy-growing areas: the Beng district in Oudomxai province; the Nam Ham and Nam Ven districts in Houaphan province; and the Nonghet district in Xieng Khouang province. The main activities include: capacity-building for community-based development planning; small-scale basic sanitation and irrigation schemes; agricultural diversification; livestock development; income-generating activities; improvement of feeder roads; drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation work; and basic health education.

11. With the application of the ban on opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2001, Myanmar was the largest single source of opium production in 2001. Increased assistance is required to achieve additional major reductions in cultivation in the country.

12. During the period from 1996 to 1999, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar declined by 38 per cent, increasing slightly in 2000, and stabilizing in 2001 at about 1,100 tons. To date, drug control and alternative development assistance have been very limited. Myanmar has very limited access to official development assistance, which is restricted to humanitarian assistance, and does not benefit from assistance from the international financial institutions. In that context, United Nations bodies operating in Myanmar have agreed on the following three priority areas for consultation with the international community and common action: human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) prevention, illicit drugs and food security.

13. In 2001, activities of the ongoing Wa alternative development project in Myanmar have been concentrated on fewer villages, and in just two geographical areas: Nam Lwi (including the township of Mong Hpen) and Nam Naw (including the township of Mong Pawk). The project applies the concept of participatory community development, with bottom-up planning and full participation of the villagers. Given the reduced level of funding, the 2001 work plan also reflected significant reductions in both project activities and staff. Project activities in 2001 included primary health-care activities; a child immunization programme; small-scale water supply schemes; feeder-road construction; promotion of high-yield rice production; livestock development and other income-generating activities. In addition, the project has established a strong management, data collection and monitoring component, including socio-economic field surveys, poppy monitoring and yields surveys, and geographical and management information systems. A project revision was approved in December 2001, formalizing an overall reduction in the project total cost and duration to reflect funding limits.

14. As a result of eradication efforts during the 1990s, Viet Nam is no longer a major opium producer. Following the successful conclusion of the first phase of the Ky Son alternative development project in central Viet Nam, a second phase was approved in late 2001. The new project will address sustainability concerns and develop replicable methodologies for the establishment of opium income substitution and drug demand reduction activities among opium-producing ethnic minorities. That will be achieved by strengthening the capacity of the national institutions responsible for delivering the required services, in cooperation with community-based development planning. Provincial and district authorities will play key roles, and the transfer of experience in alternative development technology and use will facilitate its application in other government rural development initiatives.

15. Periodic recultivation of opium poppy in areas from which it had previously been eradicated has occurred in some remote areas of Viet Nam, leading UNDCP, together with the Government, to launch a second alternative development project in the Song Ma district of Song La, a province in northern Viet Nam. The project is designed to address the problem of opium recultivation and drug abuse, by creating sustainable alternative means of livelihood. That will be achieved through a participatory approach. The project will approach the issues of both opium supply and drug demand by addressing underlying determinants such as poverty, health, household drug dependency, income opportunities, socio-economic development, and the capacity of communities to address those issues. Best practices from recently concluded UNDCP projects in Viet Nam will be applied. The project will also draw on and complement

the activities of the European Commission project in Song Ma.

IV. South-west Asia

A. Afghanistan

16. In Afghanistan, a ban on poppy cultivation, imposed by the Taliban in July 2000, was effectively implemented in 2001. That was confirmed by a donor mission to former opium-growing areas in Afghanistan, organized by UNDCP in April/May 2001. As a result, poppy cultivation in 2001 was reduced by approximately 94 per cent compared to the year 2000. The 2001 survey estimates the national production of raw opium at 185 tons cultivated over an area of 7,606 hectares. Following the events of 11 September 2001, UNDCP has received anecdotal reports of a resumption of poppy cultivation in the traditional poppy-growing areas of Helmand, Nangarhar, Oruzgan and Kandahar.

17. An alternative development project under the UNDCP pilot programme for Afghanistan was implemented from March 1997 to December 2000 in four target districts of Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces. The project had to be closed prematurely as a result of a lack of funding. The project has successfully assisted many farmers in the target areas to build up sustainable alternative livelihoods. Activities in infrastructure rehabilitation to secure the water supply for income generation through agricultural production, marketing of products and interventions in the area of social improvement were aimed at helping the communities to rebuild the basis of their economy by creating an attractive socio-economic environment. Agricultural activities supported farmers in the cultivation of improved crops, in order to encourage them to give up illicit opium poppy cultivation in favour of licit sources of income.

18. In response to the effective implementation of the Taliban opium poppy ban in 2001, and with a view to supporting its sustainability, UNDCP launched a project in Nangarhar province in August 2001 for the provision of agricultural inputs and food-for-work schemes to former opium-poppy-cultivating areas. The events of 11 September 2001 brought an abrupt halt to that new initiative. UNDCP has continued to be actively involved in inter-agency cooperation and coordination programmes related to Afghanistan, in order to ensure the incorporation of drug control objectives as a cross-cutting theme in the assistance programmes for Afghanistan provided by other agencies and in the post-conflict reconstruction of the country.

B. Pakistan

19. Pakistan has made a commitment to the international community to be poppy-free by the year 2000. That goal has essentially been achieved, in spite of resurgence of some opium poppy cultivation in the Khyber Agency of North-West Frontier Province bordering Nangarhar province in Afghanistan. Poppy has, however, been eliminated in the traditional opium-poppy-growing areas of Dir district and the tribal areas of Mohmand and Bajaur.

20. UNDCP has been implementing an alternative development project in Dir district of North-West Frontier Province, in particular in the Nehag valley, since 1985. The second phase of the project, which has been ongoing since 1994, is currently being terminated. The project activities included infrastructure development, the creation of alternative crop regimes, raising the productivity of existing crops, forestry development, soil conservation and the provision of training to develop off-farm skills, as well as health initiatives. As a result of the project activities and the eradication efforts of the Government of Pakistan, Dir district became poppy-free in 2000. During the current season, farmers were tempted to sow poppy again because of an extraordinary set of circumstances. The extremely high price of opium gum since the enforcement of the ban on cultivation in Afghanistan by the Taliban and the fledgling state of the new district governments at the local level were the main reasons.

21. The recently concluded terminal evaluation of the UNDCP Dir district development project (DDDP) determined that the project had successfully achieved its objective of eliminating opium poppy cultivation in the target area. However, the report recommends "a consolidation phase of DDDP to be implemented over sufficient time to protect the real gains of the project". The report also recommends that "the Government of Pakistan publicly affirm their determination to maintain the poppy-free status of Dir district by making a public statement in the area and putting in

place clear and unequivocal arrangements for the eradication of any poppy planted during the 2001-2002 season".

22. Early reports from Dir district in the current planting season (2001/2002) suggest that up to 500 hectares have been planted in 11 valleys of the district. UNDCP is continuing its advocacy with the Government and maintaining pressure at the level of the provincial authorities to ensure appropriate action to achieve a zero poppy harvest in Dir district in 2002. The Governor of the North-West Frontier Province issued a public notice to farmers stating that the Government will not tolerate any opium poppy cultivation. Any poppy planted will be destroyed by the Government.

V. Central Asia

23. While there is hardly any significant opium poppy cultivation in central Asia, there is an abundance of wild growth of cannabis. The authorities of the five central Asian States carry out annual campaigns of eradication (so-called black poppy operations) of both opium poppy and cannabis, although precise estimates of the eradicated areas are not available.

24. The main concern in the field of drug cultivation and production is the possibility that the drastic decrease in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2001 would trigger a significant increase in opium poppy cultivation in central Asia (the so-called balloon effect). Central Asia has the potential in terms of favourable climatic conditions and geographic terrain, a vulnerable development situation, existing opium cultivation and a past with major licit production of opium for pharmaceutical purposes. The situation warrants continuous monitoring of actual and potential opium poppy cultivation areas in the region.

25. Assistance rendered by the Office for Drug Control and Crime prevention of the Secretariat to the central Asian States in the elimination of illicit crops includes the 1997-2000 project "Mapping the extent of illicit poppy cultivation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan", which involved the following: the development of a methodology for the mapping of opium and cannabis cultivation; comprehensive knowledge of such cultivation in selected areas of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; and acquisition by the concerned authorities of the skills required to carry out such surveys on their own. Assistance was also provided in the development of an environmentally safe and reliable biological control agent for opium poppy under the 1998-2001 project "Research and development of an environmentally safe and reliable biological control agent for opium poppy".

VI. The Middle East

26. The Office for Drug Control and Crime prevention has maintained long-standing cooperation with the Government of Lebanon in the area of alternative development aimed at eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops. The assistance is provided by UNDCP, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the United Nations Office for Project Services and other relevant bodies.

27. During the 1970s and 1980s, Lebanon was the major producer of illicit drugs in the Middle East. Cultivation of illicit crops started in Lebanon on an increasing scale in the district of Baalbek and Hermel in the northern Bekaa valley. After the outbreak of civil war in 1975, illicit cultivation expanded, reaching its peak with cannabis cultivation estimated as high as 11,000 to 16,000 hectares, yielding up to 1,000 tons of cannabis resin per year, during the late 1980s. Illicit opium poppy cultivation, which began during the 1980s, rapidly grew from 3,500 to 5,000 hectares, yielding 30 to 50 tons (3-5 tons of heroin).

28. During the period from 1991 to 1993, the Lebanese and Syrian forces started eradicating illicit cultivation in the Bekaa valley. While significantly reducing the cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis, the eradication campaigns were not, however, integrated into a wider programme to address the socio-economic conditions in the Bekaa valley and to limit the loss of income for the affected communities. Eradication in the absence of alternative income sources thus had an immediate negative economic impact on the population.

29. UNDCP has so far completed three operations amounting to $5.584 million in Lebanon, and is currently completing two ongoing projects, the bigger of which is the second phase of the Baalbek-Hermel Regional Development Programme ($1.854 million). A

second complementary multisectoral project ($210,000) was signed in May 1999 and started implementation in August 1999. The project includes the provision of equipment for the law enforcement agency, the establishment of a licit control system and the conducting of a rapid assessment study on the extent and patterns of drug abuse in Lebanon. Further assistance to Lebanon will form part of the subregional drug control programme envisaged by UNDCP for the Middle East.

30. In 1994, UNDCP and UNDP started to support development in the Bekaa valley as part of a wider infrastructure and development programme of the Government of Lebanon for the Bekaa valley. The major achievements of phase I are as follows: establishing a revolving credit scheme to address cash flow problems of farmers; setting up a network of local development and credit committees to build up a participatory structure; rehabilitation of water supply systems for Baalbek and expansion of the agricultural irrigation scheme; establishing agricultural extension and research facilities and supporting the pilot alternative crop cultivation scheme; rehabilitation and equipping of the government hospital in Hermel; training of nurses in primary and advanced health care; and provision of alternative income for women through handicraft cooperatives. Phase II of the rural development programme has resulted in the following achievements: maintaining and enhancement of the credit scheme; integration of the development and credit committees and other stakeholders in an enhanced participatory development planning process; start-up of operations at the primary health care centres in Aarsal, Nabi Shit, Chmistar and Deir Ahmar and support to the public hospitals in Baalbek and Hermel; implementation of an education programme including awareness-raising activities in 20 high schools; organizing a youth work camp with 60 participants, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the municipalities of El-Ain, Labwe, Zabboud, Bajjaje and Jabboule; computer training for 210 students for 18 months; provision of vocational training for 50 school drop-outs; literacy courses for 400 adults; support provided to local women's non-governmental organizations in handicraft production and food-processing.

31. Those substantive achievements have improved both living standards and the income opportunities of the population in the Bekaa valley. However, given the scale of the problems at hand and the required funds, the interventions of the first two phases have remained insufficient to generate sustained development of the Baalbek-Hermel region. Consequently, the poorest strata of society were reported to be resorting to the cultivation of illicit crops to complement their insufficient income.

32. UNDCP has therefore designed a further programme to address the socio-economic conditions in the Bekaa valley. The programme, which is currently awaiting funding, aims at achieving sustained and successful eradication of illicit crops in the Bekaa valley and preventing the recurrence of such cultivation in the north-western Bekaa valley.

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Implementation of the international drug control treaties: other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

National database system

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 2001/18 of 24 July 2001, entitled "Implementation of the computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control developed by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme", the Economic and Social Council commended the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) on its success to date in developing the national database system and on its responsiveness to the requirements of Member States in developing the system.

2. In the same resolution, the Council noted that the representatives of 25 Governments attending the third meeting of the group of users of the national database system, held in Vienna from 1 to 3 November 2000, had concluded that the national database system was a comprehensive and mature product that is highly user-friendly and ready for detailed testing and possible implementation in many countries. Also in the same resolution, the Council requested UNDCP to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-fifth session on the national database system. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

3. On the basis of the recommendations made by the third meeting of the group of users of the national database system, UNDCP developed a work plan for the activities of the system in 2001. The plan focused primarily on expanding the use of the system to as many competent authorities as possible, following a series of missions by the project team of the national database system. Each mission carried out the installation of the system and provided training in its use. Equipment was provided and infrastructure software licences were made available to the competent

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national authorities. When appropriate, equipment and licences were also provided to regional projects conducted by UNDCP, such as the licit drug control project in eastern Africa and the precursor control projects in south Asia, central Asia and Latin America.

4. Installation of national database system 4.0 and training were provided during 2001 to the following States: Australia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Hungary, India, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Uzbekistan.

5. The activities related to the national database system were funded from the Development Account of the United Nations. The funds allotted for the system from that account were exhausted in 2001. Thus, UNDCP developed a project idea for 2002-2003 to continue the national database system initiative. The project idea was circulated at the fourth meeting of the group of users of the national database system, held in Vienna on 1 October 2001.

6. UNDCP is in the process of preparing a project document to continue the national database system initiative during 2002-2003. The new project would be subject to voluntary contributions from Member States.

7. The fourth meeting of the group of users of the national database system was attended by representatives of 49 States. The meeting unanimously concluded that the national database system was a mature system that fully served the needs of national and international control of licit drugs, and that set standards for automating national and international drug control. The process of setting standards was highly commended, and UNDCP was requested to continue its support for the system.

8. The need to ensure the viability of the national database system was a major concern for all States represented at the meeting. The representatives of Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland and the United States proposed that UNDCP sustain the system as a normative function rather than a technical cooperation project.

9. The need for continuous training and support for the competent national authorities was highlighted by the meeting.

10. There was widespread support for the continuation of the national database system during 2002 and 2003. Possible enhancements to the system were discussed, and experiences were shared on ways of implementing the system to maximize its benefits. The suggestions made were included by UNDCP in its project idea for 2002-2003.

11. The meeting also recommended providing a higher level of support for developing countries, which encountered great difficulties in implementing the national database system because of their limited national infrastructure to support information technology. A process of transfer of ownership was recommended for developed countries, with UNDCP remaining the substantive owner of the national database system.